School Rumble

Jin Kobayashi

Vol. 1

School Rumble

1

Jin Kobayashi

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
William Flanagan

LETTERED BY
Dana Hayward

School Rumble 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

School Rumble 1 Copyright © 2003 by Jin Kobayashi
English translation copyright © 2006 by Jin Kobayashi

All rights reserved.

Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2003 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

Lettering—Dana Hayward

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Cultural Note

To preserve some of the humor found in *School Rumble*, we have elected to keep Japanese names in their original Japanese order—that is to say, with the family name first, followed by the personal name. So when you hear the name Tsukamoto Tenma, Tenma is just one member of the Tsukamoto family.

WHAT THE HECK IS LOVE?

SMILE FOR ME!

A DREAM...?

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

I KNOW.

BECAUSE I'M STRESSED OVER IT.

I'M SO HAPPY!

I'LL SAY IT, AND THEN YOU'LL SEE!

IT MAKES ME SO MAD!

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!

IT JUST GIVES ME THE CHILLS!

I WANT TO RUN AWAY SO BAD!

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL FOOLING YOURSELF!

IT WAS USELESS FROM THE START.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND BOYS!

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT!

THIS REALLY HURTS!

DO YOU THINK I'M PRETTY?

I BELIEVE IN YOU, YOU KNOW!

AH HA HA HA!

IDIOT!

I CAN'T SLEEP.

OHH, NOO! WHAT'LL I DO?!

WAS THAT AGAINST THE RULES?

IT JUST COMES INTO MY BRAIN.

JUST ACCEPT IT!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A LADY?!

THIS JUST ISN'T LIKE ME!

IT ISN'T AN EXCUSE!

IS THAT A STAB IN THE BACK?

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF!

School Rumble

1

Jin Kobayashi

I LOVE YOU!!

I'M GIVING THIS MY BEST!

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CRYING!

Are there feelings that you can't feel?

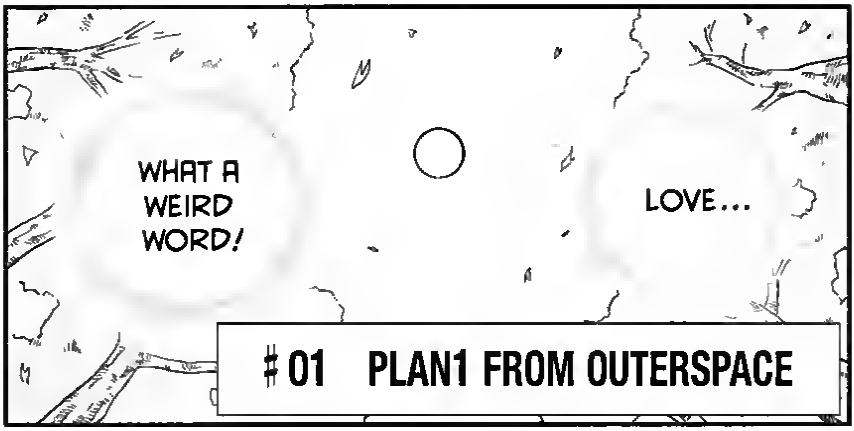
School Rumble

Contents

♯01	PLAN1 FROM OUTERSPACE	005
♯02	EASY RIDER	017
♯03	DEEP SPACE NINE	022
♯04	BOOK OF LOVE	032
♯05	ENTER THE DRAGON	039
♯06	YOU'VE GOT MAIL	050
♯07	DEATH RACE 2003	060
♯08	THE GREAT ESCAPE	067
♯09	THE GIRL WHO KNEW LITTLE	075
♯10	LA BELLE NOISEUSE	083
♯11	THE TOWERING INFERNO	091
♯12	UNFORGIVEN	098
♯13	BROKEN ARROW	108
♯14	SPEED	116
♯15	RAIN MAN	124
♯16	WILD PARTY	132
♭01	WONDER WOMAN	139
♭02	RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS	155

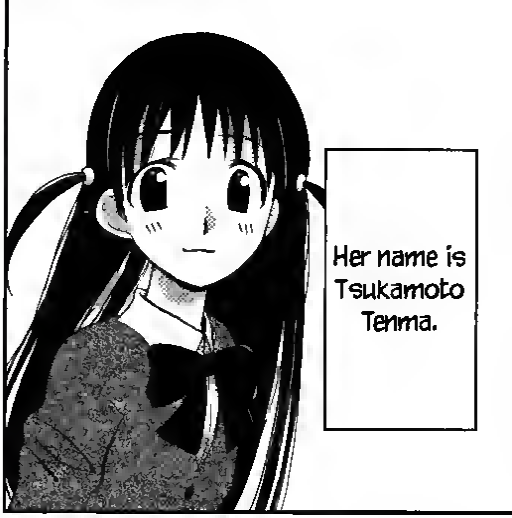
ONE DAY I'LL SAY IT...

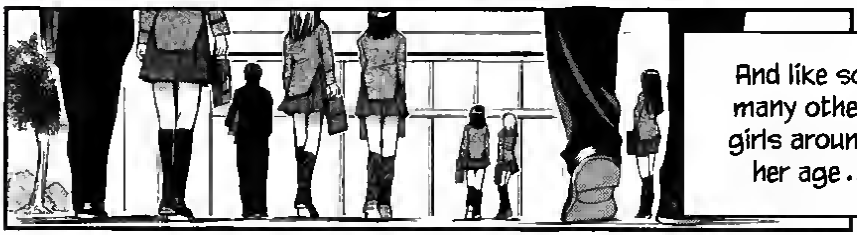
THAT YOU'RE THE REASON I'M SO HAPPY!

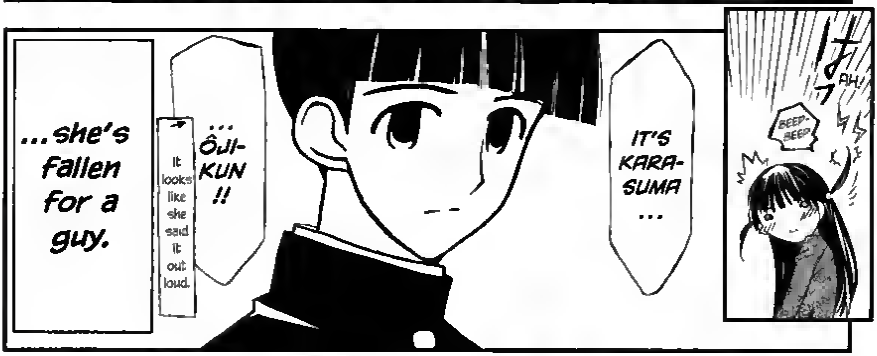


#01 PLAN1 FROM OUTERSPACE

One could call her a normal high school student.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT!
YOU'RE LATE!
Younger Sister Yakumo.


Her name is Tsukamoto Tenma.


And like so many other girls around her age...

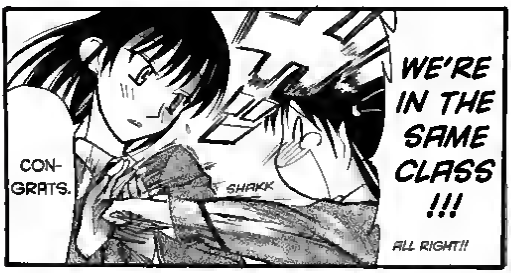

...she's fallen for a guy.
It looks like she said it out loud.
...ÔJI-KUN!!
IT'S KARA-SUMA...
AH!
BEEP-BEEP

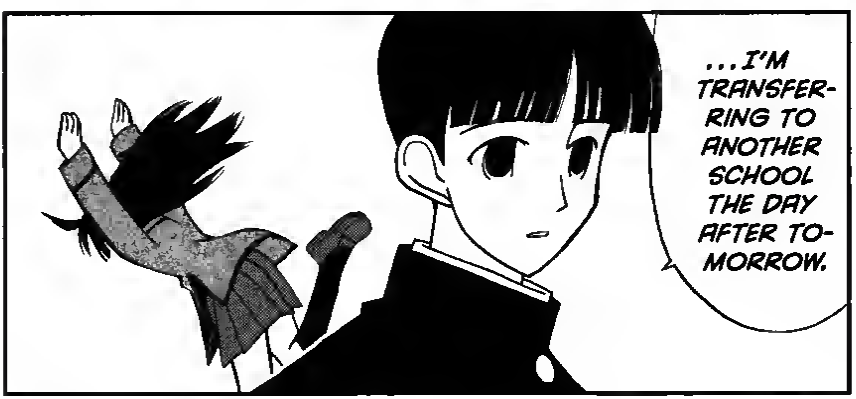
Today is the day that class assignments come out, so for Tenma, this is the pivotal day on which her destiny turns.
I HOPE WE END UP IN THE SAME CLASS!

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Karasuma Ôji

烏丸大路





THAT DREAM DIDN'T LAST LONG.
I'LL MAKE IT WORK OUT!!
YOU'RE STILL AT IT?
Tenma's House
FIRST I'LL START CLEANING. THAT'LL CALM ME DOWN.
VWOOOM
THEN I'LL WASH DISHES!
5 hours later.
3 hours later.
THEN I'LL DO LAUNDRY AND CONSIDER MY OPTIONS!
KLONK
KLONK
I'LL JUST SLEEP.
OH, HECK!
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING !!
8 hours later.

SURE, I'M AFRAID! IT'S ONLY NATURAL!

KARASUMA-KUN HAS NO IDEA HOW I FEEL!

I NEVER DID ANY-THING TO LET HIM KNOW!

IF I'M GOING TO START HAVING REGRETS, THEN NOT DOING ANY-THING NOW IS THE PERFECT REGRET TO BEGIN WITH!

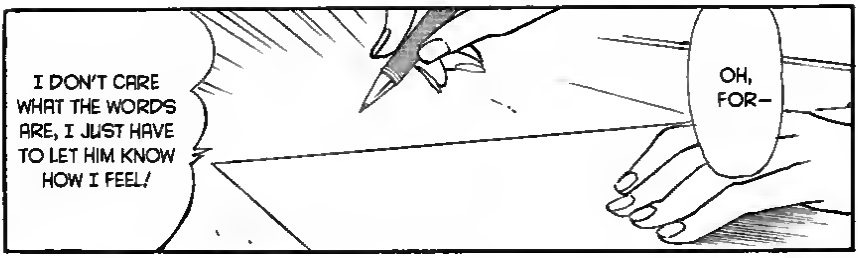
OR ELSE...

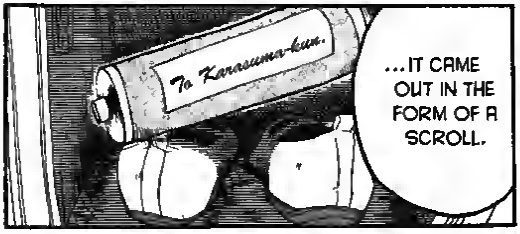
FIP
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WRITE, "I LOVE YOU."
THAT SHOULD BE EASY! EASY!
♥
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW A PERSON DOES THAT!
FIRST THING IS TO WRITE HIM A LOVE LETTER, RIGHT?
WHAT THE HECK AM I WRITING?!
...LOAD MY STUFF TO GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO WATCH YOU SKI!
POFF
ZOOM ZOOM
DEAR KARASUMA-KUN, I LO... ...LO...
...LO...
...
...LO...

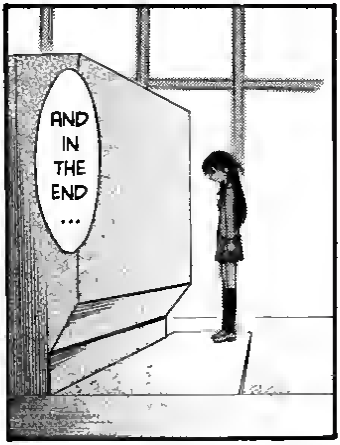
I LOST MY PEN
... LO ...
D-DEAR KARASUMA-KUN, I...
CALM DOWN, TENMA! CALM DOWN!
DEAR KARASUMA-KUN, I...
...LOATHE SUKIYAKI!!
HEY, NEE-CHAN? WHAT'S UP?
NOTHING! NOTHING IS UP!!
NEE-CHAN, ARE YOU TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP?
WHY CAN'T I GET TO THE POINT?!
LONGITUDE!
LOYALTY!
In a voice getting more and more stressed.
I LODGE MYSELF IN YOUR DOORWAY!
I LOWER MY DEFENSES!

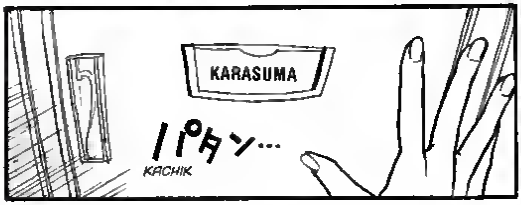
The next day...

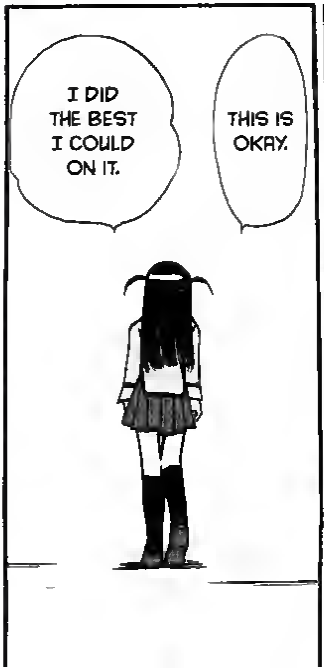
WHAT'LL I DO? WHAT'LL I DO?
I CAN'T WRITE IT!
SOME-HOW IT JUST FEELS WRONG!
WHAMM
TO TREMBLE
WHO'D EVER READ ALL THIS?!

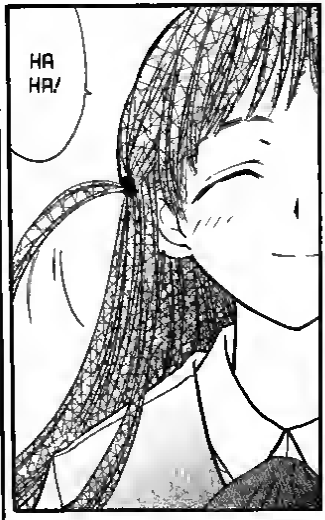

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE WORDS ARE, I JUST HAVE TO LET HIM KNOW HOW I FEEL!
OH, FOR—


To Karasuma-kun.
...IT CAME OUT IN THE FORM OF A SCROLL.


AND IN THE END...


KARASUMA
ｶﾁｯ…
KACHIK

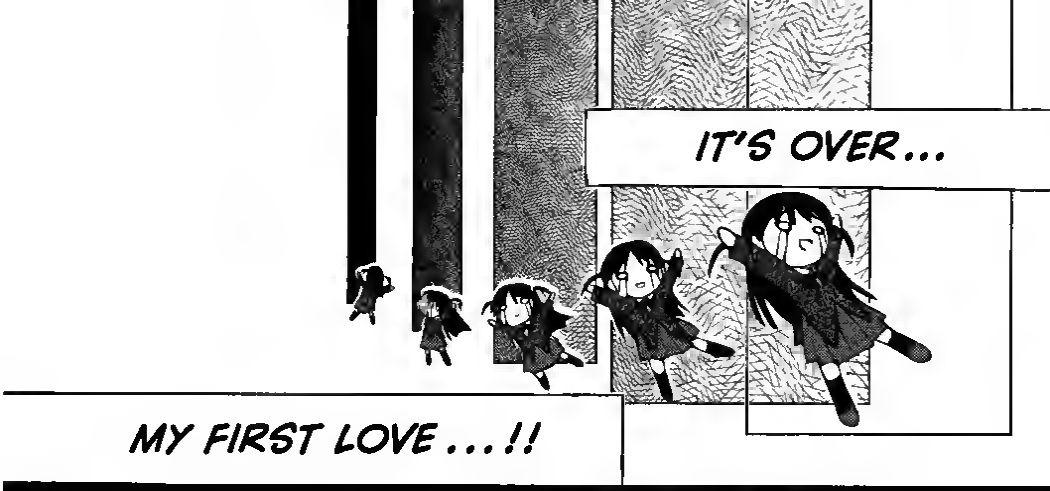

I DID THE BEST I COULD ON IT.
THIS IS OKAY.

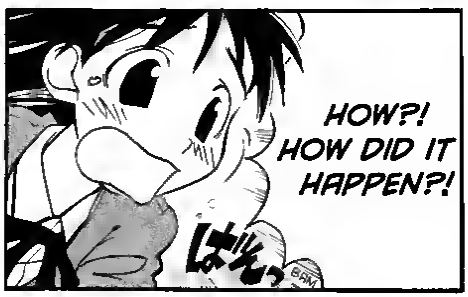

HA HA!

HAHHHH...

After school...
ガヤ
CHATTER
SEE YA
CHATTER
SORRY, I HAVE MY CLUB RIGHT NOW
HE'S READING IT!!
HE... .....
てろてろ
SHLOOM
SHLOOM
SHLOOM
HE'S STILL READING IT!
ざざ——ん
SHUUUSH
As the sun sinks into the west...
HE... .....

しゅろ
SHLOOM
HE'S READING IT AGAIN!!
OKAY. NOW...
POING
しゅろっ
SHLOOM SHLOOM
I'M SORRY IT WAS SO LONG!
AH!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINISHED...
HE'S ROLLING IT UP AGAIN.
And as evening turns to night...
ヴォーン WOOO!
HMM...
DO YOU THINK HE LIKED WHAT HE SAW?!
IS THAT KARASUMA-KUN'S REACTION?!
しゅろっ
SHLOOM
SHLOOM!
I-IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINISHED.
HE'S ROLLING IT UP AGAIN.
は～ HAHHH...
OH, NOOO!!!
I THOUGHT THE PERSON NEVER MENTIONED HER NAME.

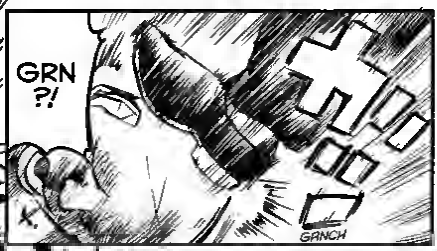




THEY SAY HE DELAYED HIS TRANSFER.
DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY, KARASUMA-KUN?
But soon...
HE GOT PERMISSION FROM HIS PARENTS TO STAY HERE ANOTHER YEAR.

Karasuma Only Has 365 Days Left Until He Leaves School.

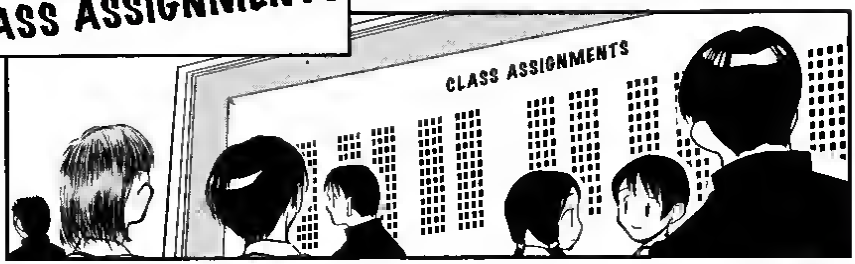
01 . . . . . Fin.

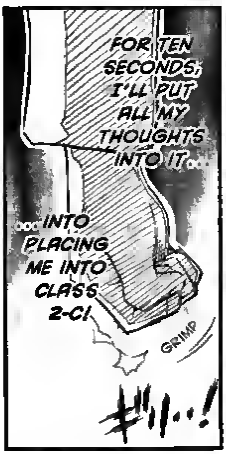


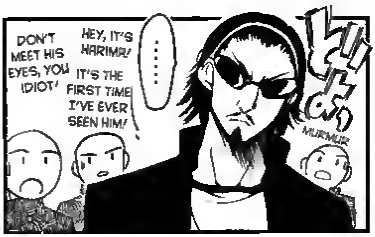
#02 EASY RIDER

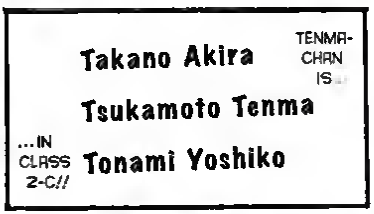
GLANCE
At school...
I'M JUST WHAT I LOOK LIKE, A JUVENILE DELINQUENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
MY NAME'S HARIMA KENJI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S MORNING ALREADY!
IT'S TSUKAMOTO TENMA-CHAN!!
Yet another one who is in love.
SWISH
THONK
HARIMA! HOW DARE YOU COME TO SCHOOL DRESSED LIKE THAT—
I WANT HER TO BE IN MY CLASS!
A newly hired teacher.
HEAVEN to HELL

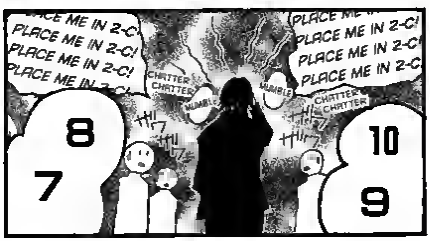
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

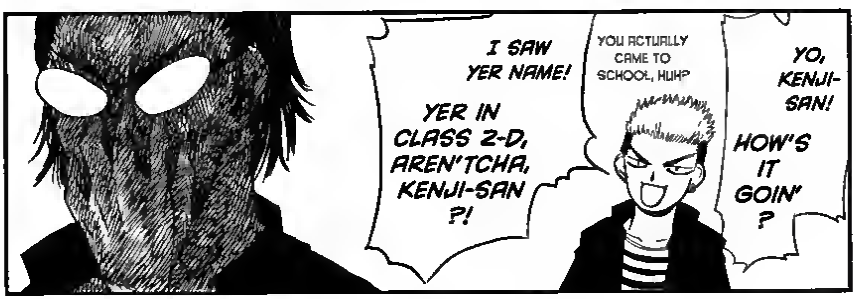


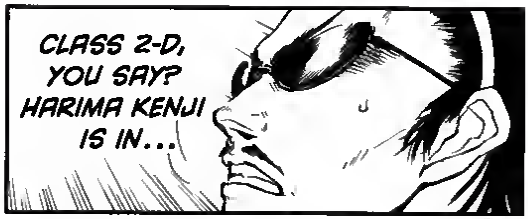


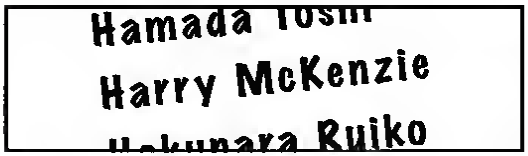




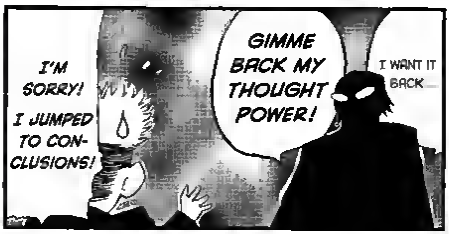





CLASS 2-D, YOU SAY? HARIMA KENJI IS IN...


Hamada Toshi
Harry McKenzie
Hokunara Ruiko

WH-WHAT WAS THAT, KENJI-SAN...?
CHK
CHK
SSSZZZL
YOU SEE HOW MUCH POWER MY THOUGHTS HAVE?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY THOUGHT POWER HAS NOWHERE TO GO.


I'M SORRY! I JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS!
GIMME BACK MY THOUGHT POWER!
I WANT IT BACK...

YOU PUNK! YOUR JOKES ARE TOO GOOD!
WHUMM
THAT'S SOME FOR-EIGNER!!

YOU'RE ONE STUPID PUNK! YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM ME!
GEEZ!

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
I'M GONNA LOOK AT THE WHOLE CHART AND FIND MY NAME IN ONE GO!
HM... 2-C, HUH?

SHKK

After looking many, many times...
RUBB RUBB
MMM ...
WHAT'S THIS?
GONNNG
MY NAME ISN'T THERE AT ALL!!
Looks at Class F.
Looks at Class A.
DAMMIT! JUST WHAT CLASS AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IN?!
HUH...? IT ISN'T THERE!
WHERE'S MY NAME?
HARIMA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU WERE SUSPENDED FOR THIS YEAR!!
NOW I REMEMBER!!
#02.....Fin.

#03 DEEP SPACE NINE

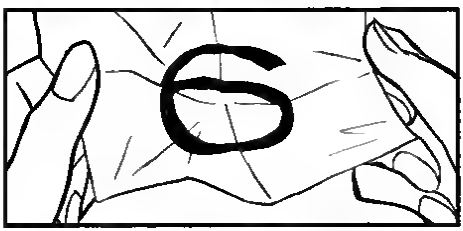
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF TAKING YOUR BATH AND GOING TO BED.
CAN'T YOU SEE YOUR OLDER SISTER IS IN LOVE?!
KA CHAK
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T SEE WHAT THE FUSS IS ABOUT!
SEAT ASSIGN-MENTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN LUCK.
SHHHHH
That evening . . .
. . .A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
BUT REALLY, I'M . . .
SLP
I'M TREATED LIKE A KID!
SO I HAVE TO DO AS MUCH AS I CAN ABOUT THIS!

So...
MMM...
.....
.....
...MM!
.....
SWAMM
A STAR!! THE MARKING ON THAT CARD IS A STAR!!
UMF!
BWMM
AND I HAVE NO PROBLEMS BENDING SPOONS!
EVEN THOUGH I READ EVERY WORD IN THE BOOK!
OH, HONESTLY! WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN'T EVEN GET IT RIGHT ONCE!
KARASUMA-KUN!
.....
SIGH
I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT!
DEPRESSION IS NOT AN OPTION!
WHOOSH

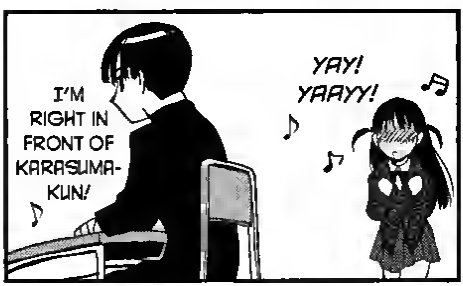
NOT AT ALL!! EMOTIONS ARE AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER! I HAVE A FEELING MY LUCK IS ABOUT TO GET A BIG BOOST!
SO YOU ARE SERIOUS, HUH?
LOOKING AT YOU, I GET A FEELING FOR HOW FUTILE EVERYTHING IS.
IN THE END, NOTHING WORKED.
The next day...
WHAAAA...
WAIT! I CHANGED MY MIND! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
IT... IT WAS... IT WAS THE HORO-SCOPE THEY SHOWED THIS MORNING ON TV.
TODAY OF ALL DAYS!
OKAY... WHAT'S CAUSING TODAY'S GREAT LUCK?
UM... KARASUMA-KUN IS WHERE, EXACTLY?
WITH THAT MANY SEATS TO CHOOSE FROM...
2-C
RIGHT... FOR THE SEAT ASSIGNMENTS...
MY FIRST CHOICE IS BEHIND, THEN SIDE-BY-SIDE, THEN KITTY-CORNER BEHIND, THEN IN FRONT, THEN KITTY-CORNER IN FRONT!

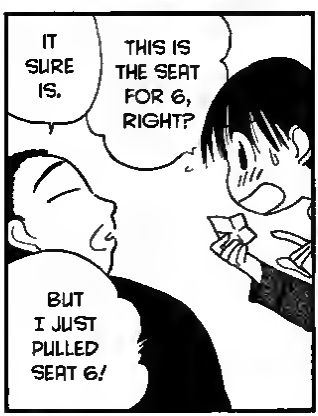
A WINDOW SEAT IN THE LAST ROW?!
MY OPTIONS ARE SUDDENLY SO LIMITED!!
THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS THE SEAT IN FRONT OF HIM!
THE NUMBER I HAVE TO DRAW IS 6!!
BONNG
TSUKAMOTO-SAN, YOU'RE NEXT
PICK A NUMBER.
B-BMP
FLIP
6
PLEASE! LET ME PICK 6!!

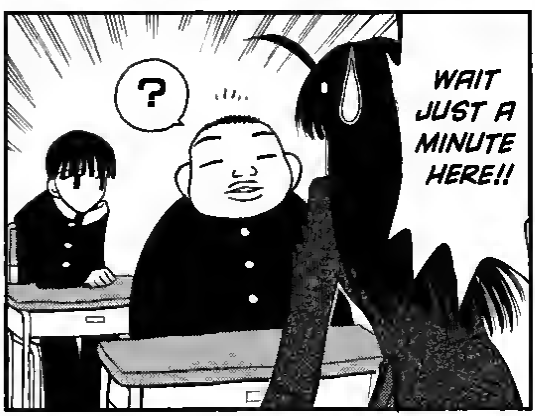
EH?
I JUST SAW A 6! BUT ISN'T THAT CHEATING? NO!! IT ISN'T A CHEAT, IT'S...
WAVRR
...FATE ITSELF!!


6

IT'S ALL MINE!!
HAYAAH!
WHUMPH


I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF KARASUMA-KUN!
YAY! YAAYY!


IT SURE IS.
THIS IS THE SEAT FOR 6, RIGHT?
BUT I JUST PULLED SEAT 6!


?
WAIT JUST A MINUTE HERE!!

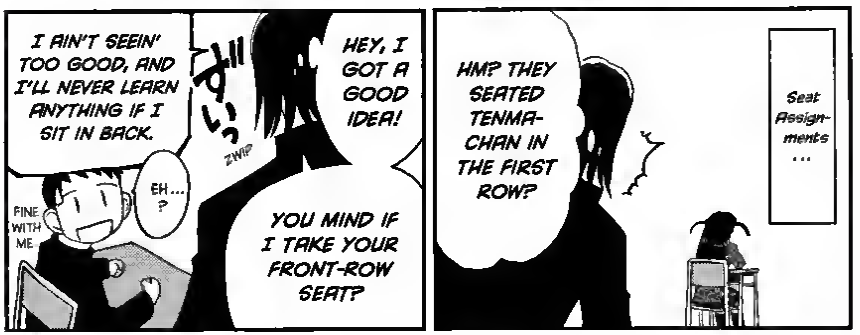
YOU SEE THE LITTLE DOT?
THIS! RIGHT HERE.
HEY! DID YOU EVEN LOOK AT THIS?
EH?
!!
LET ME SEE THAT.
9
THAT TELLS YOU THAT YOU DREW A 9!!
堕ちていく
DESCENT INTO THE VOID!!
OH, NO, THEN WHERE IS 9?!
FRONT AND CENTER!
WELCOME TO THE TEACHER'S SPECIAL SEAT!

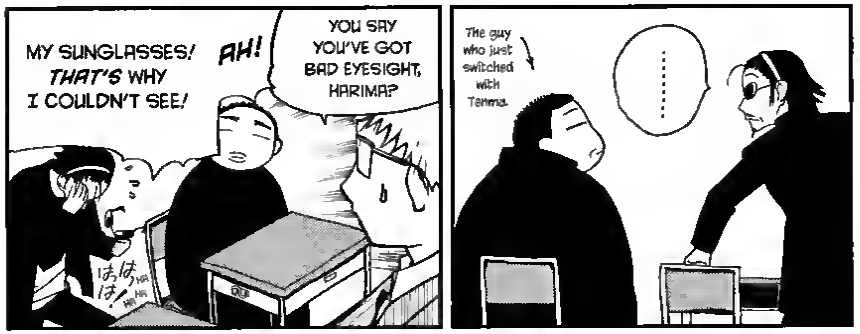
REALLY? I SUPPOSE... IS THERE ANYONE WHO'D BE WILLING TO CHANGE—
.....!!
MY EYESIGHT HAS BEEN GETTING WORSE. COULD I HAVE A SEAT UP FRONT?
WHAT IS IT?
EXCUSE ME!
V-VERY WELL. TH-THEN IT'S DECIDED.
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ!
GRNNNNN
ME! I'LL DO IT! I'LL CHANGE WITH HIM! ME!!
I FEEL IT!
I CAN FEEL HIS WARM EYES WATCH-ING ME!
HEH HEH!
→ Looking out the window.
IT'S OKAY. I DID IT FOR MY OWN REASONS.
REALLY! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

03 . . . . . Fin.

BONUS!

He was suspended for this year, but they made a special exception and allowed him to advance.
Harima Kenji.
Not only that, but they put him in Class 2-C also


I AIN'T SEEIN' TOO GOOD, AND I'LL NEVER LEARN ANYTHING IF I SIT IN BACK.
EH...?
FINE WITH ME
ZWIP
HEY, I GOT A GOOD IDEA!
YOU MIND IF I TAKE YOUR FRONT-ROW SEAT?
HM? THEY SEATED TENMA-CHAN IN THE FIRST ROW?
Seat Assign-ments...



Harima: *Moves Closer to Our Heroine!*

#03 BONUS.....Fin.

TSUKA MOTO YA KUMO

塚本八雲

STATS:

Height: 166 cm (5' 5")

Favorite Thing: Sister

Least Favorite Thing: Dogs

Favorite Place: A bright, sunny veranda

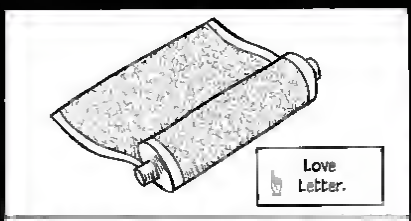
Special Talent: Cooking, taking care of her sister

Hardest Thing to Live With: Will fall asleep anytime, anywhere

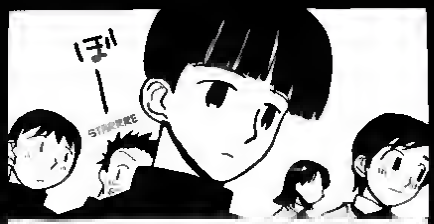
Notes: Can read the minds of people who have feelings for her

By the way, her cat's name is Iori.

#04 BOOK OF LOVE

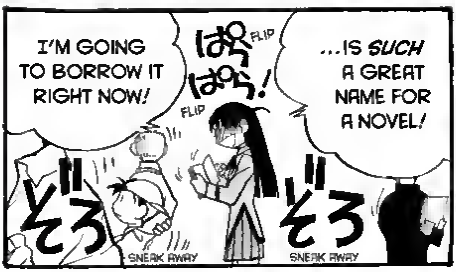


Realizing how precarious her situation is, Tenma composes a love letter addressed to her intended boyfriend. Unfortunately, despite the extensive message, her plan resulted in failure. (She neglected to identify herself as the sender.)



Class 2-C. Karasuma Ôji is the object of Tsukamoto Tenma's affections. However, it is revealed that he is committed to transfer to a scholastic institute in America.

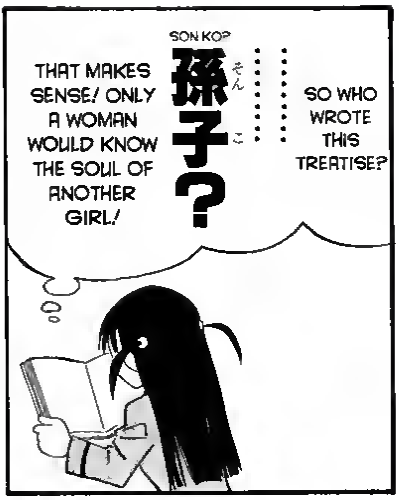
The answer would be that Karasuma requested a postponement of the transfer.
And yet, one may ask the reason why the dire situation took a turn for the better.



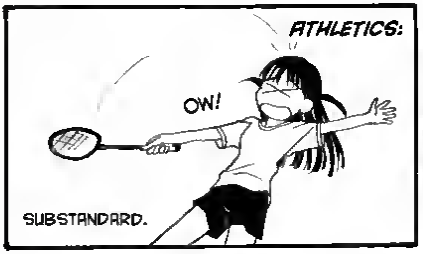
THREE MINUTES LATER . . .
WHERE'D HE GO TO GET THAT STRAW HAT?
I HAVE TO LEARN EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW!
I'LL TURN MY FAILURE INTO A SUCCESS!
PSYCHOLOGY OF HUMAN LOVE
どちゃっ
WHUMP
I'M JUST BAD AT READING SMALL PRINT! OKAY, WHAT'S NEXT?
HUP
ひぃっ
I'M SO DUMB!!
IS THIS THE LIMIT OF HOW MUCH KARASUMA-KUN MEANS TO YOU?!
ぽか
PAFF
スカースカー
SCHNOOR
PONG PONG
MMBL . . . KARASUMA-KUN . . . MMBL
GUWAAA!!
"IF YOU KNOW THE ENEMY AND KNOW YOURSELF, YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE RESULT OF A HUNDRED BATTLES."
THIS IS IT!!
THE ART OF WAR
SUN TSU
ASIDE FROM ROMANCE NOVELS, WHAT ELSE CAN I . . .
OH!

Tsukamoto Tenma: 16 years old.

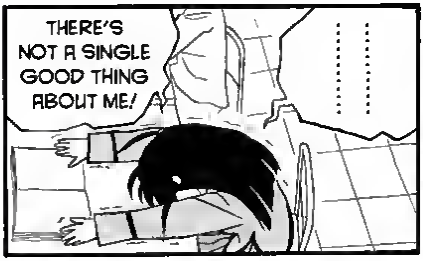
"KNOW YOURSELF," HUH?

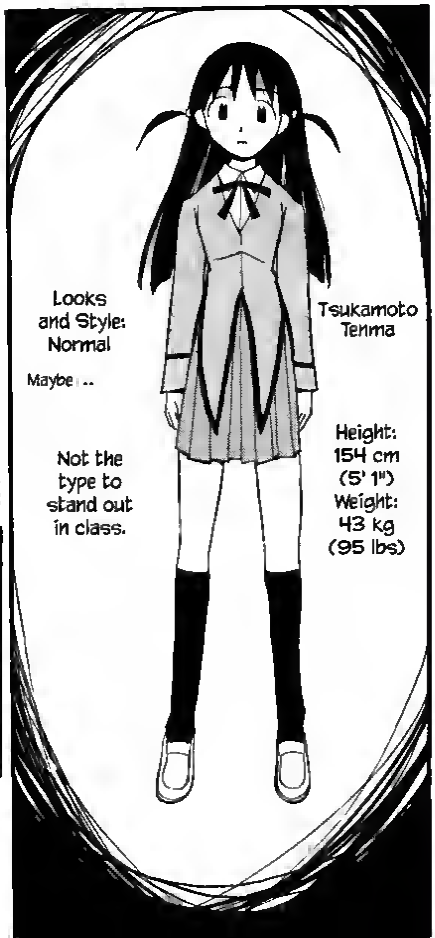

SO WHO WROTE THIS TREATISE?
SON KO?
孫子
THAT MAKES SENSE! ONLY A WOMAN WOULD KNOW THE SOUL OF ANOTHER GIRL!

JUST WHAT KIND OF GIRL AM I?


ATHLETICS:
OW!
SUBSTANDARD.

SCHOLASTICS:
WHAT? WHAT? I GOTTA WRITE SOMETHING!
SUBSTANDARD.


THERE'S NOT A SINGLE GOOD THING ABOUT ME!


Looks and Style: Normal
Maybe...
Not the type to stand out in class.
Tsukamoto Tenma
Height: 154 cm (5' 1")
Weight: 43 kg (95 lbs)

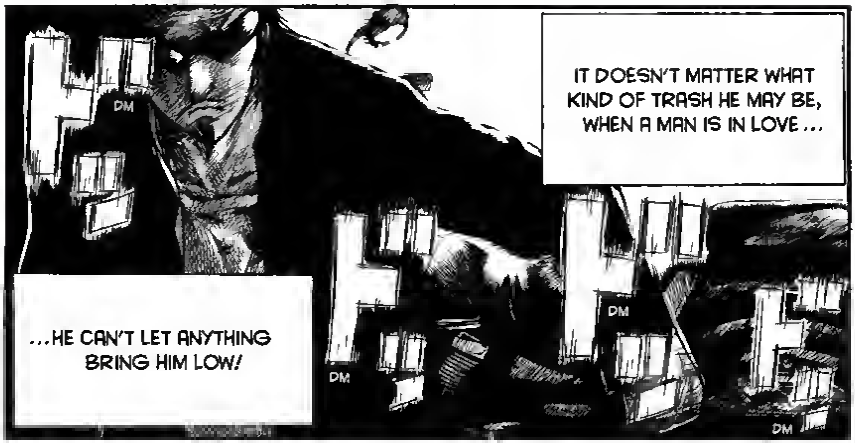
Tsukamoto Tenma: *Shy.*

HE MUST HAVE COME WHILE I WAS SLEEPING!
HE MUST THINK I'M THE WEIRDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD!!
WHEN DID HE APPEAR THERE?!
ZOOM
AH!
YES, EXACTLY LIKE THAT.
JUST LIKE A RABBIT
BUT...THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME KARASUMA-KUN TALKED TO ME, HUH?
KARASUMA-KUN.. C-C-CAN YOU TELL ME HOW YOU SAY THIS WORD?!
GUNT
HERE!
HERE!
The woman is getting carried away.
as your own beloved sons, and
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I'LL ASK HIM TO PRONOUNCE THIS WORD!
HA HA HA HA BWA
DAMMIT!
DAMMIT!!
DAMMIT!!!
SAY, ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE!
OH, THAT?
IT'S PRONOUNCED BELOVED!

TELL ME WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU USE THIS!?
WHOOSH
KARA-SUMA-KUN!
MAYBE I CAN ASK HIM WHAT A BEE-KEEPER'S EXTRACTOR IS FOR AND GET HIM TO SAY "HONEY"!
FLIP
Doesn't know when to give up.
THAT'S IT!
HE'S GOING TO CALL ME...!!
UM...
I-GOT THE WRONG FILE!
CHAFF.
YEAH! SEE YOU, KARASUMA-KUN!
POING
A woman who is quick to recover.
SO, I'LL SEE YOU LATER...
...TSUKA-MOTO-SAN.
POING
EXCUSE ME, BUT IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO.

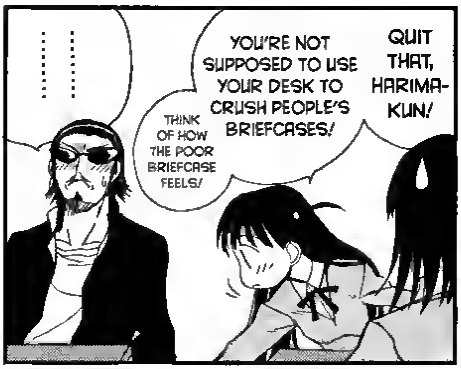
04.....Fin.

#05 ENTER THE DRAGON

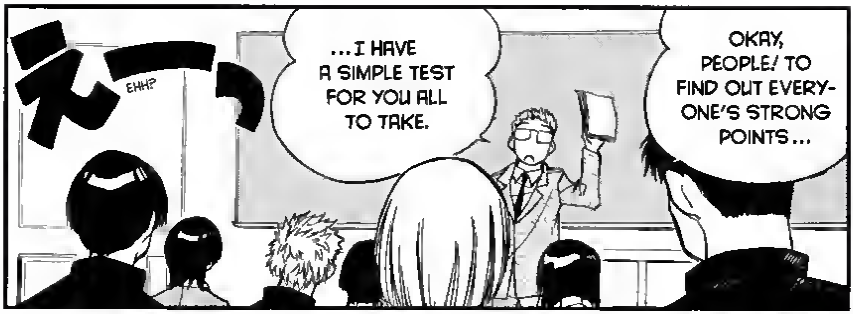


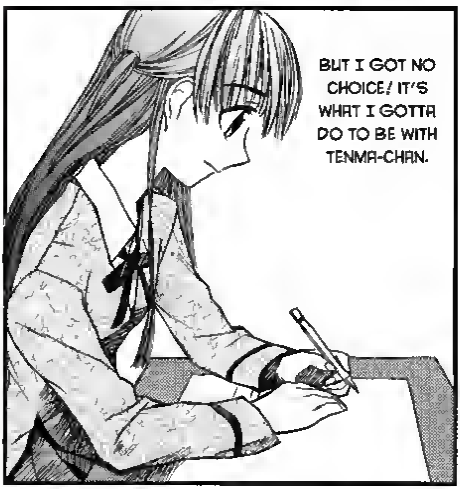
WRONGO

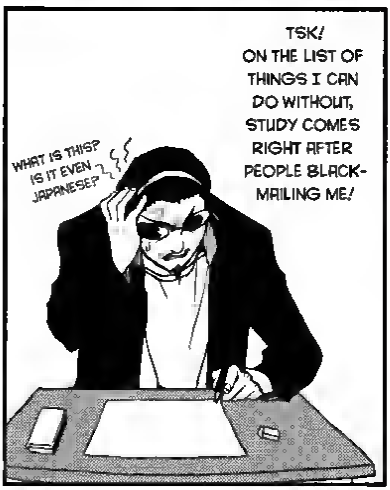
* Some statements and images in this manga may reflect a slight exaggeration of reality.
TENMA-CHAN, EVERYTHING I DO IS ALL FOR YOU!
WHOOO

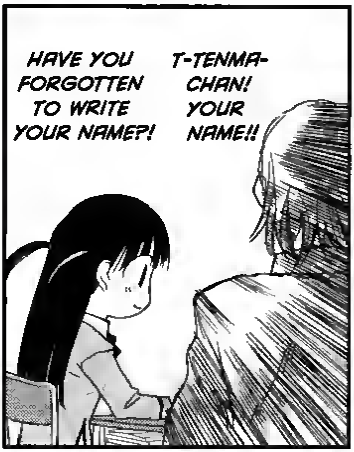

.....
THINK OF HOW THE POOR BRIEFCASE FEELS!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO USE YOUR DESK TO CRUSH PEOPLE'S BRIEFCASES!
QUIT THAT, HARIMA-KUN!

Tenma-chan forgot her bento lunch box, so her younger sister Yakumo-chan came to deliver it.

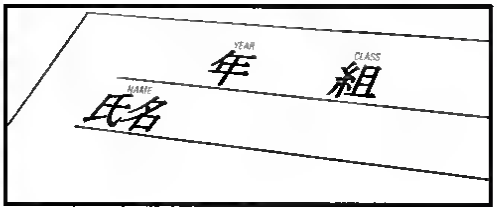

えー
EHH?
...I HAVE A SIMPLE TEST FOR YOU ALL TO TAKE.
OKAY, PEOPLE! TO FIND OUT EVERY-ONE'S STRONG POINTS...


BUT I GOT NO CHOICE! IT'S WHAT I GOTTA DO TO BE WITH TENMA-CHAN.


TSK! ON THE LIST OF THINGS I CAN DO WITHOUT, STUDY COMES RIGHT AFTER PEOPLE BLACK-MAILING ME!
WHAT IS THIS? IS IT EVEN JAPANESE?


HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO WRITE YOUR NAME?!
T-TENMA-CHAN! YOUR NAME!!

URK!!
!!

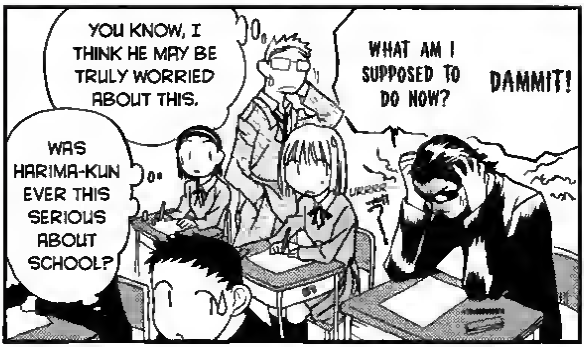

YEAR
年
CLASS
組
NAME
氏名

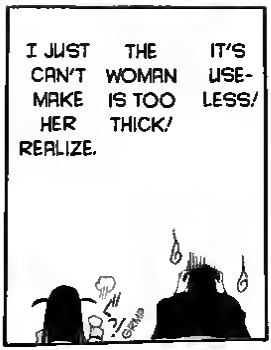
I CAN'T EVEN SPEAK TO WARN HER OF HER DANGER!
MAYBE SHE SIMPLY HASN'T NOTICED.
BUT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TEST!
I'LL MOUTH THE WORDS TO HER!!
I ONLY HAVE ONE OPTION!
YOU・FOR・GOT・TO・WRITE・YOUR・NAME!
TEN・MA・CHAN!
FLAP FLAP
TEN・MA・CHAN!
I'LL YELL IT!!
YOUR・NAME!
YOUR・NAME!!
FLAPPA FLAPPA
.....
ALL RIGHT, THEN
NO GOOD! MAYBE THE WORDS ARE TOO COMPLICATED FOR MOUTHING

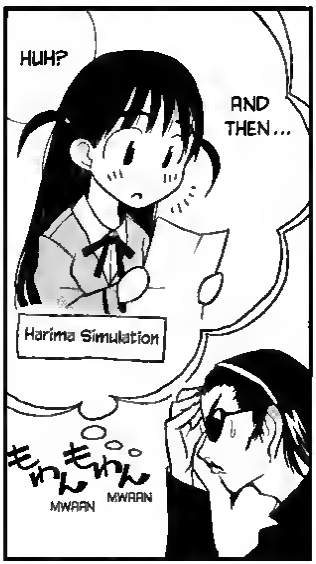
TH; THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY! THERE MUST!!
WHAT AM I DOING? I'M JUST LOOKING LIKE A BIG GOLDFISH!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!
HA HA HA! YOU'D BETTER TAKE MORE CARE, HARIMA.
どよどよ MURMUR MURMUR
TSK! I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF! BUT, IF IT...
EVEN IF I HAD ANSWERED ALL THE QUESTIONS RIGHT, WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS ME? THAT WAS ONE CLOSE CALL!
OH, MY GOSH! I ALMOST FORGOT TO PUT MY NAME ON THE TEST.
I HAVE NO CHOICE! I HAVE TO USE THE STANDARD LIE!
I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU!! FIGURE IT OUT! HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF LEARNING FROM OTHERS' MISTAKES?! BUT SHE'S SO CUTE!!
くすくす TEE HEE
HEY, WAIT JUST A SECOND!!

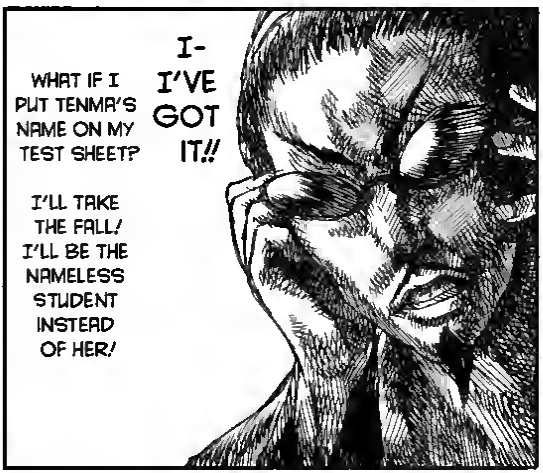
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
GULP
OH! I'VE ALREADY DONE THAT LAST ENGLISH TRANSLATION QUESTION!
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT WAS WAY TOO EASY!
Getting desperate.
MAYBE I SHOULD PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS AND MAKE HER REALIZE!
!?
SLIPP
ANSWER
You forgot to put down your name!
DID THAT DO THE TRICK?!
POFF
?
?

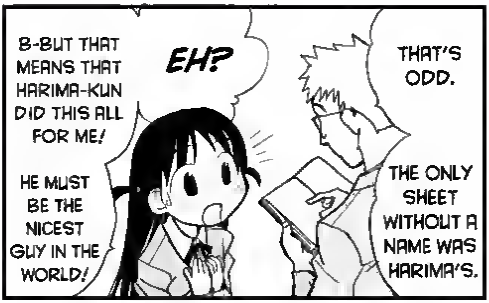
問7 (ANSWER)
You forgot to put down your name!♥
WHY ME?! WHY?! WHY?!
AND WHAT IS THAT HEART ABOUT?


YOU KNOW, I THINK HE MAY BE TRULY WORRIED ABOUT THIS.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
DAMMIT!
WAS HARIMA-KUN EVER THIS SERIOUS ABOUT SCHOOL?

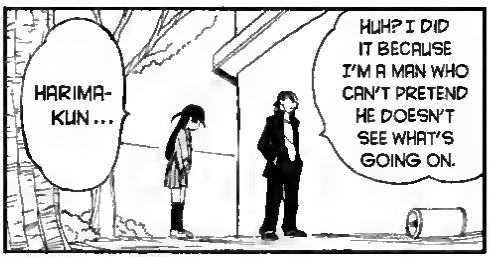

I JUST CAN'T MAKE HER REALIZE.
THE WOMAN IS TOO THICK!
IT'S USE-LESS!


HUH?
AND THEN...
Harima Simulation
もわんもわん
MWARN
MWARN


WHAT IF I PUT TENMA'S NAME ON MY TEST SHEET?
I'LL TAKE THE FALL! I'LL BE THE NAMELESS STUDENT INSTEAD OF HER!
I-I'VE GOT IT!!

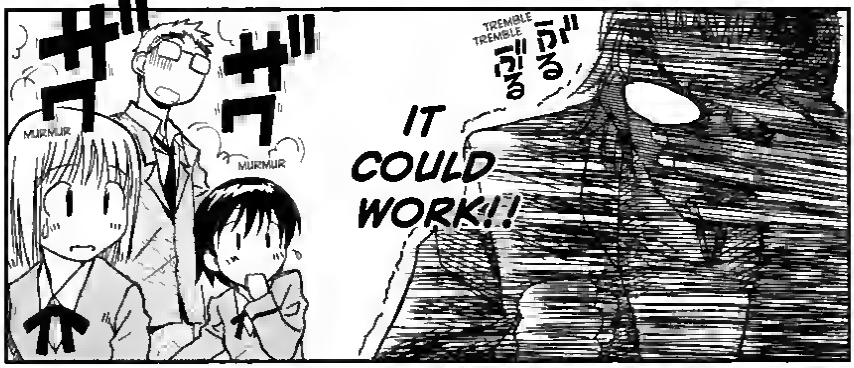

B-BUT THAT MEANS THAT HARIMA-KUN DID THIS ALL FOR ME!
EH?
HE MUST BE THE NICEST GUY IN THE WORLD!
THAT'S ODD.
THE ONLY SHEET WITHOUT A NAME WAS HARIMA'S.

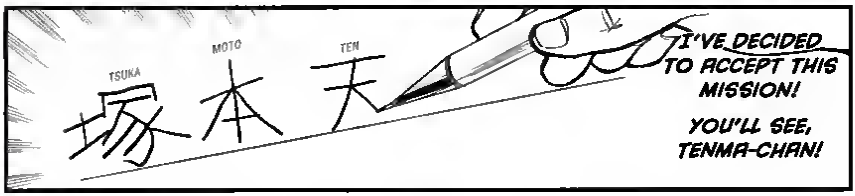
WHAT?
EXCUSE ME!
THAT'S MY NAME ON THE ANSWER SHEET, BUT I DIDN'T WRITE THIS!

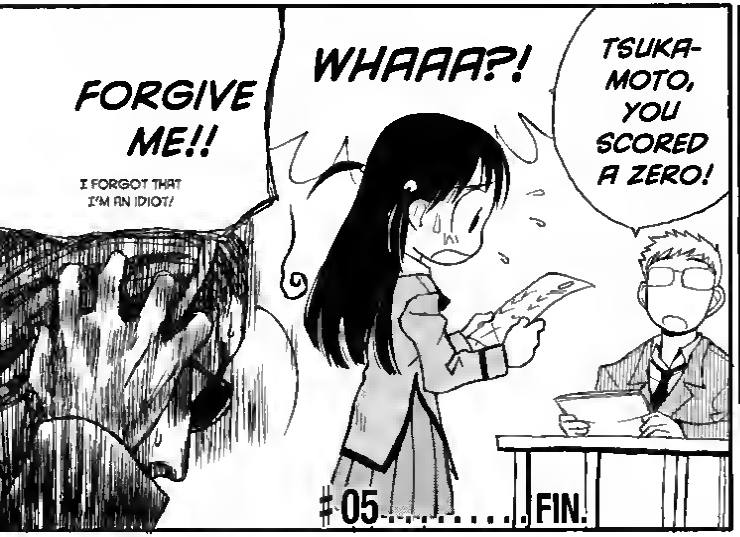

HARIMA-KUN...
HUH? I DID IT BECAUSE I'M A MAN WHO CAN'T PRETEND HE DOESN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

I'LL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!
I PLACE MYSELF IN YOUR GENTLE HANDS.
I LOVE YOU!
AS DO I!

BAMM


ザワ
ザワ
MURMUR
MURMUR
TREMBLE TREMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ
IT COULD WORK!!


TSUKA
MOTO
TEN
塚本天
I'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THIS MISSION!
YOU'LL SEE, TENMA-CHAN!


FORGIVE ME!!
I FORGOT THAT I'M AN IDIOT!
WHAAA?!
TSUKA-MOTO, YOU SCORED A ZERO!
05.....FIN.

Two Days Later...
HERE ARE YOUR TESTS BACK FROM THE OTHER DAY...

Yakumo introduces . . .

TSUKA MOTO TEN MA

塚本天満

STATS:

Height: 154 cm (5' 5")

Favorite Thing: Karasuma-san

Least Favorite Thing: She can't eat anything too spicy.

Favorite TV Show: She and I are always watching Edo-period dramas together.

Favorite Book: I see her with manga all the time.

Strong Points: She's an eternal optimist, and she makes friends easily.

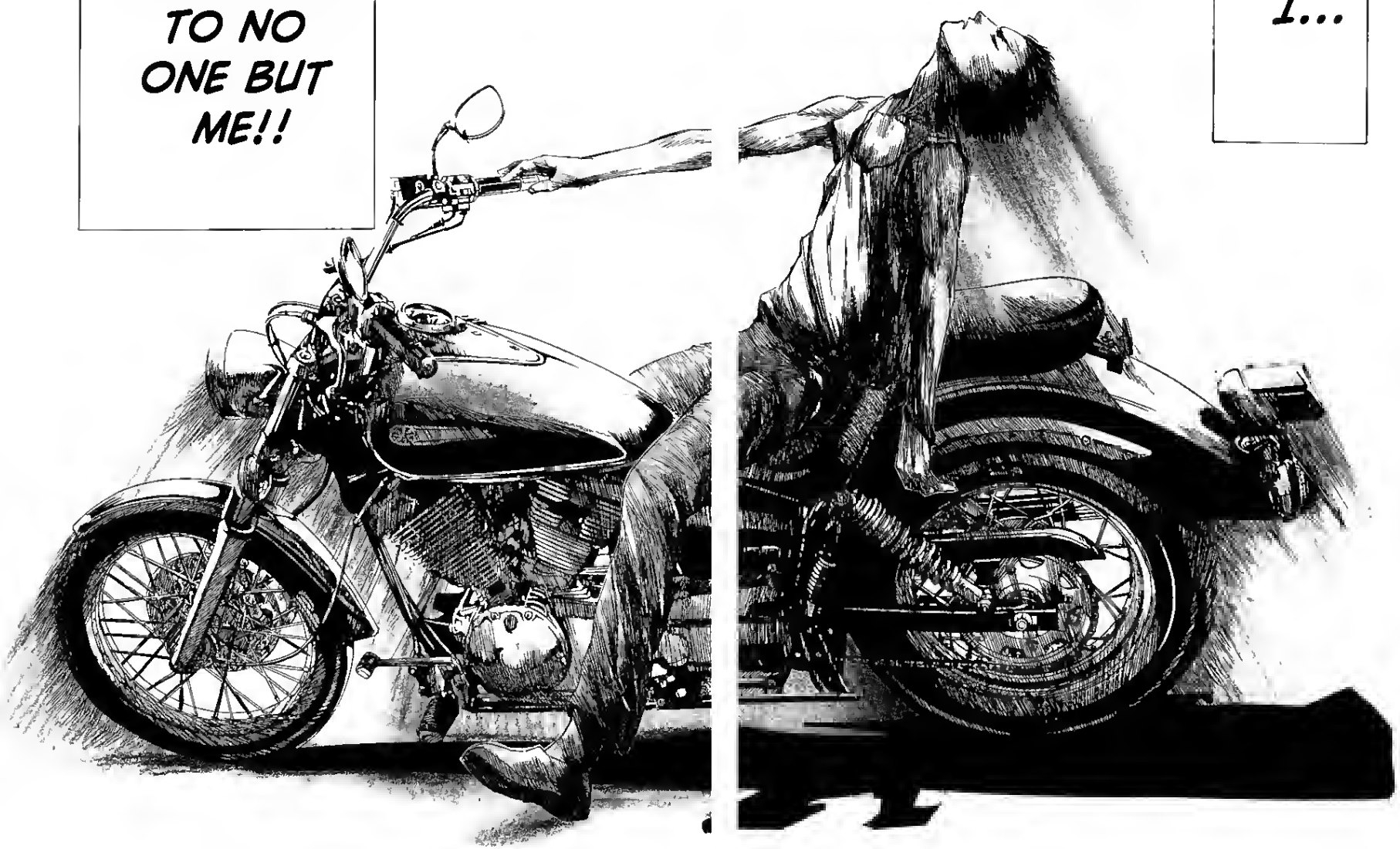
One Last Word: She's a big sister that a girl can always rely on.

NOT TOO LONG AGO, I WAS AN UPPITY, BRATTY MIDDLE-SCHOOL KID.
A TRUE, HOPELESS IDIOT.
GRNNN
AND I WAS A GOD!!

I WASN'T TIED DOWN TO ANY-BODY OR ANY-THING!
RRNNN
RRNNN

...BELONGED TO NO ONE BUT ME!!

I...



WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH TSUKA-MOTO TENMA!
BUT ONE WOMAN CHANGED ALL THAT.
A CHALLENGE LETTER?
CHALLENGE
I'VE NEVER LOVED FROM AFAR. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.
BUT HOW CAN I LET HER KNOW?
KACHAK
ガチャ
OH, HIM/
TENNŌJI NOBORU?
I MEAN, WHO SENDS A LETTER NOWADAYS?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
HE WROTE THE KANJI WRONG.
THAT'S THE ANSWER!!
RIPP
NO, JUST THE OPPOSITE!
BECAUSE IT'S A LETTER IT HAS A GREATER IMPACT!

The Next Day Near the School Entrance...
TSUKAMOTO
THIS IS IT! TENMA-CHAN'S SHOE LOCKER!
TAKE THIS!
THE MOST PERFECT
LOVE LETTER
THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!!
TSUKAMOTO
スチャ
SWIPP
SHE'LL MEET ME AT 4 P.M. BEHIND THE GYM.
I'LL JUST TAKE A NAP HERE ON THE ROOF.
I... UM...
I, UM...!
ハァ"
WHSSH
HARIMA-KUN...
TENMA-CHAN! SHE'S ALREADY WAITING!
HM...
OKAY, IT'S ALMOST TIME...
THIS'LL BE GREAT!

WHO THE...
WAIT... I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE...
THAT'S IT! IT'S THE JERK WHO SENT ME THE CHALLENGE!!
WHAT WAS HIS NAME ... TENNÔJI NOBORU OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WAS HIS CHALLENGE FOR EXACTLY THE SAME TIME AND PLACE AS MY PROMISE TO TENMA-CHAN?
DAMMIT! I'D LIKE TO TAKE HIM ON, BUT NOW I CAN'T!
HARIMA... YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST TWO OR THREE CRACKED RIBS!
YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN THE HOSPITAL!

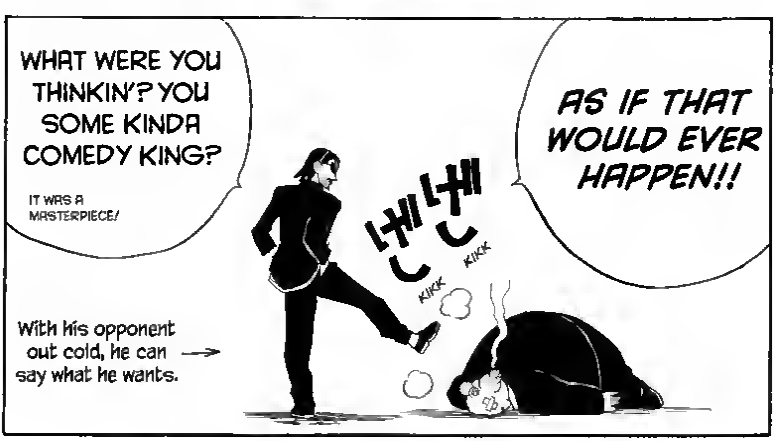
I'LL JUST BORROW IT A MINUTE!
HWIP
AH?! N-NOOO!!
EH? I'M WAITING FOR SOME-ONE.
HELLO? MISS?
SMILE
I'VE NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Y-YEAH...
HOOOH? A LETTER, IS IT?
THE BIG BEAST!!
THAT CREEP! WHERE'D HE GET THE NERVE TO TALK TO HER!
W-WAIT!!
NOW WHAT'S THIS HERE? COULD IT BE A *POEM*?!
"THANK YOU," ARE THE WORDS I WANT TO CONVEY. THE FIRST WORDS TO SAY TO A MOTHER AND FATHER. "THANK YOU FOR RAISING SOMEONE SO SWEET." I CAN ONLY SAY, "THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART."
STOP! PLEASE! STOP!

EH?
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK OF IT...?
THE ONLY THING I WANNA DO NOW IS GET OUT THERE AND BASH THAT GUY!
GWA HA HA HA!!
WHO COULD FIGURE THAT POEM OUT?! AND WHAT GOOD'S A VERSE THAT MAKES YOU LAUGH?
IT'S TOO BAD HE NEVER SIGNED IT!
I KNOW I'M NOT VERY SMART...
...BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I TRY MY BEST TO FEEL WHAT THE WRITER FEELS.
AND... THINK THE FEELING OF LOVE IN THIS LETTER...
...ARE THE WRITER'S TRUE FEELINGS.
I CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE THIS POEM!

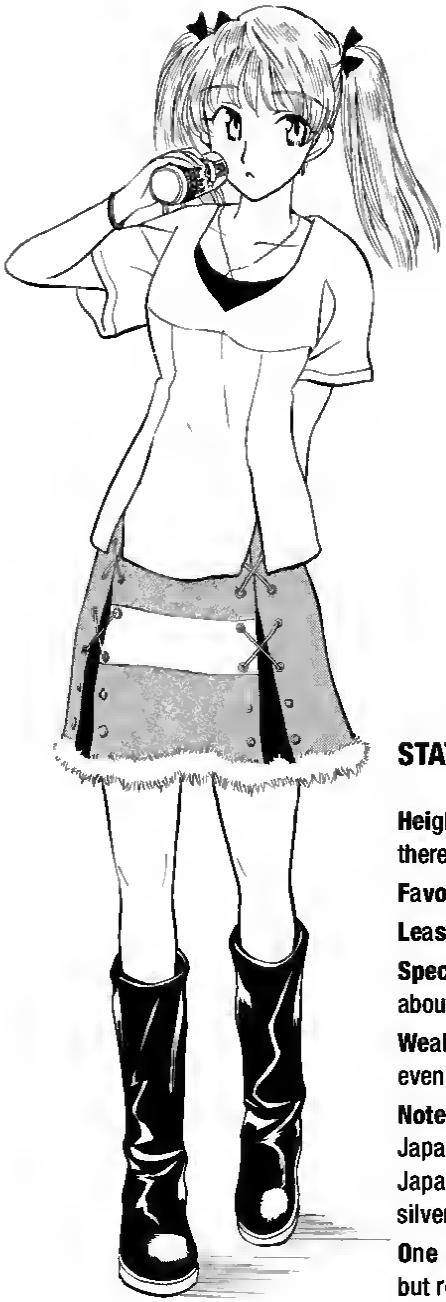
...THIS IS THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER FELT!
EVER SINCE I FELL FOR TENMA-CHAN...
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO PULL?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT!
I WANT TO GO OUT THERE, BUT I JUST CAN'T!
ACTUALLY, I'M THE ONE WHO WROTE IT.
I LOVE YOU!!
BUT...I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE.
THANK YOU!
SHKK

WHAAH!
SNIFF!
PRT
PRT

MAYBE WE SHOULD GO OUT DRINKING.
JUST CHALK IT UP TO A CASE OF BAD TIMING.
THESE THINGS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME.
HA HA! STOP YOUR CRYIN'!


WHAT WERE YOU THINKIN'? YOU SOME KINDA COMEDY KING?
IT WAS A MASTERPIECE!
AS IF THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN!!
KICK
KICK
With his opponent out cold, he can say what he wants.

06 . . . . . Fin.



IF IT'S JUST A DATE... SURE, I'LL GO.

Tsukamoto Tenma introduces...

SAWA CHIKA E RI

沢近愛理

STATS:

Height: 165 cm (5' 5") . . . or somewhere around there.

Favorite Thing: She once told me it was the zoo.

Least Favorite Thing: I think it's kanji and cooking.

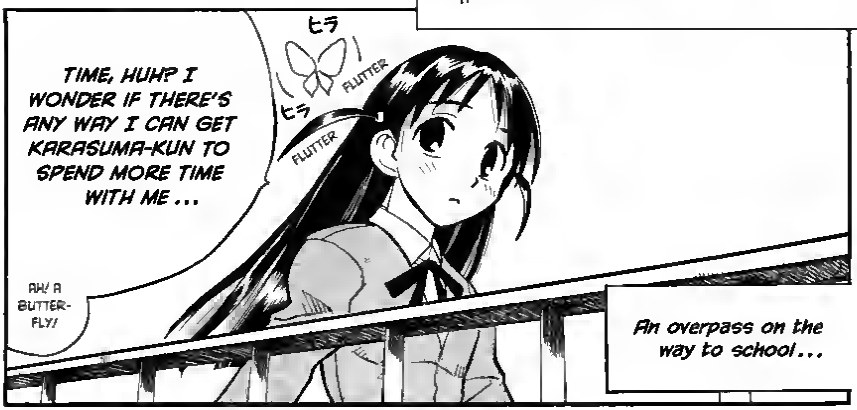
Special Talent: She's a genius who can master just about anything! I'm sooo jealous!

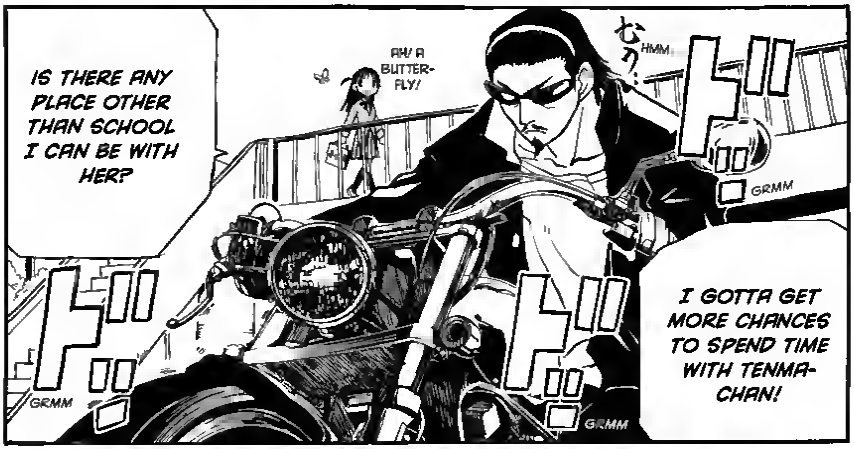
Weak Points: She may not look it, but she can be even sadder than I get.

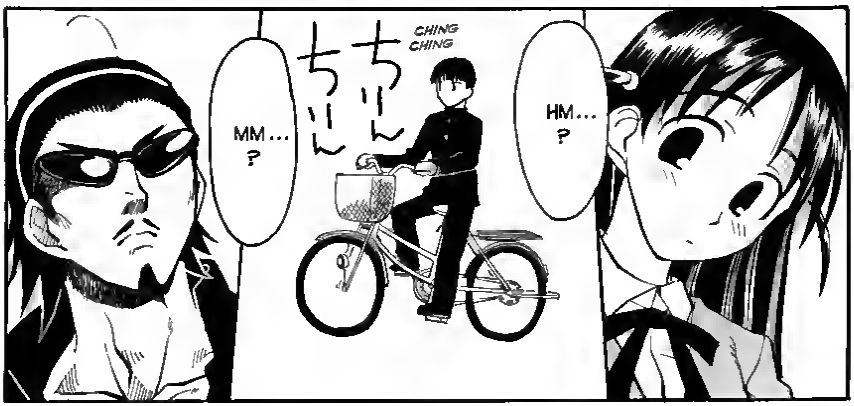
Notes: Her father's British and her mother's Japanese, so she's mixed race. She's now back in Japan from living in England. She was raised with a silver spoon in her mouth.

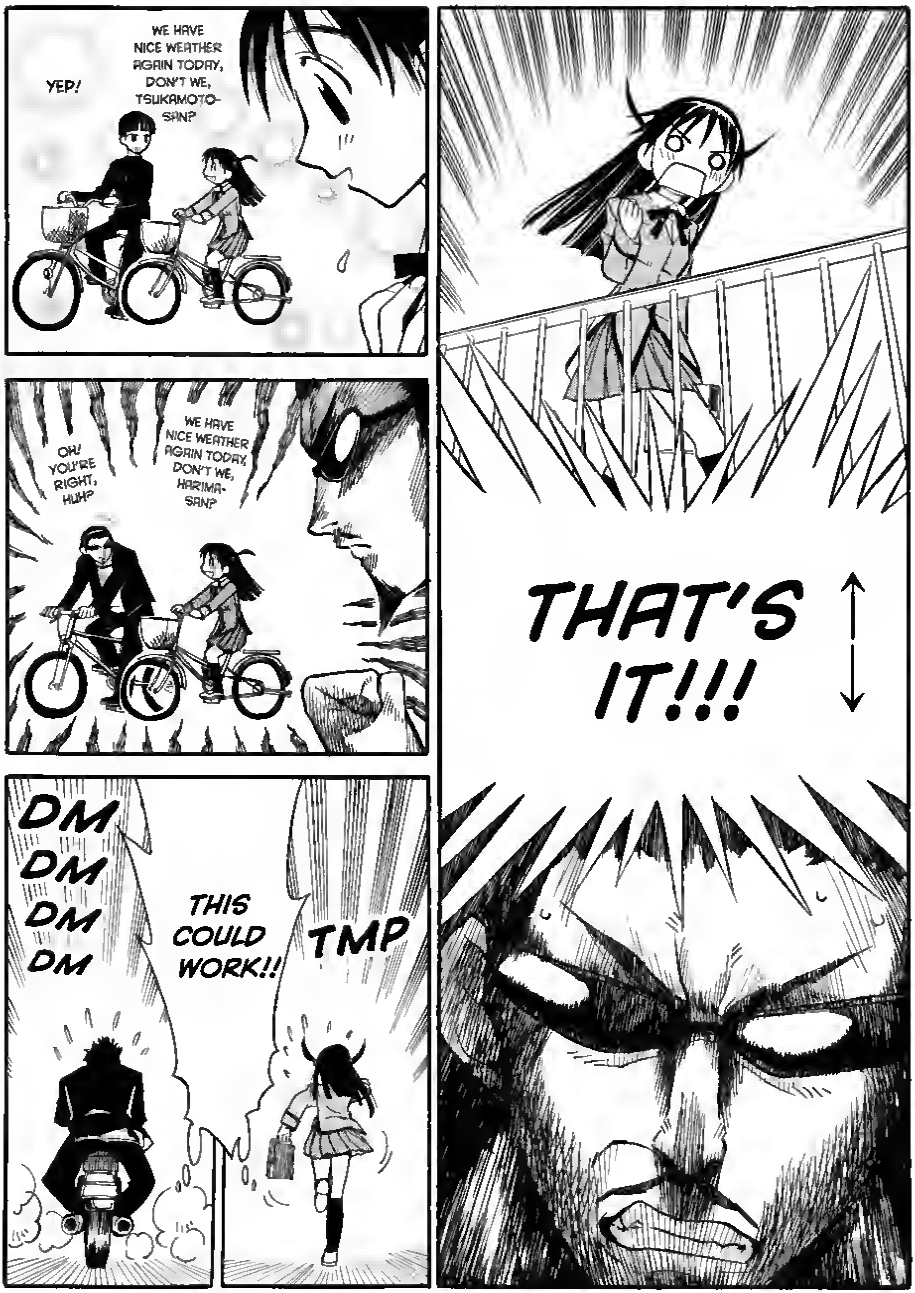
One Last Word: Her language may be a little rough, but really she's a nice girl, I'm sure of it!

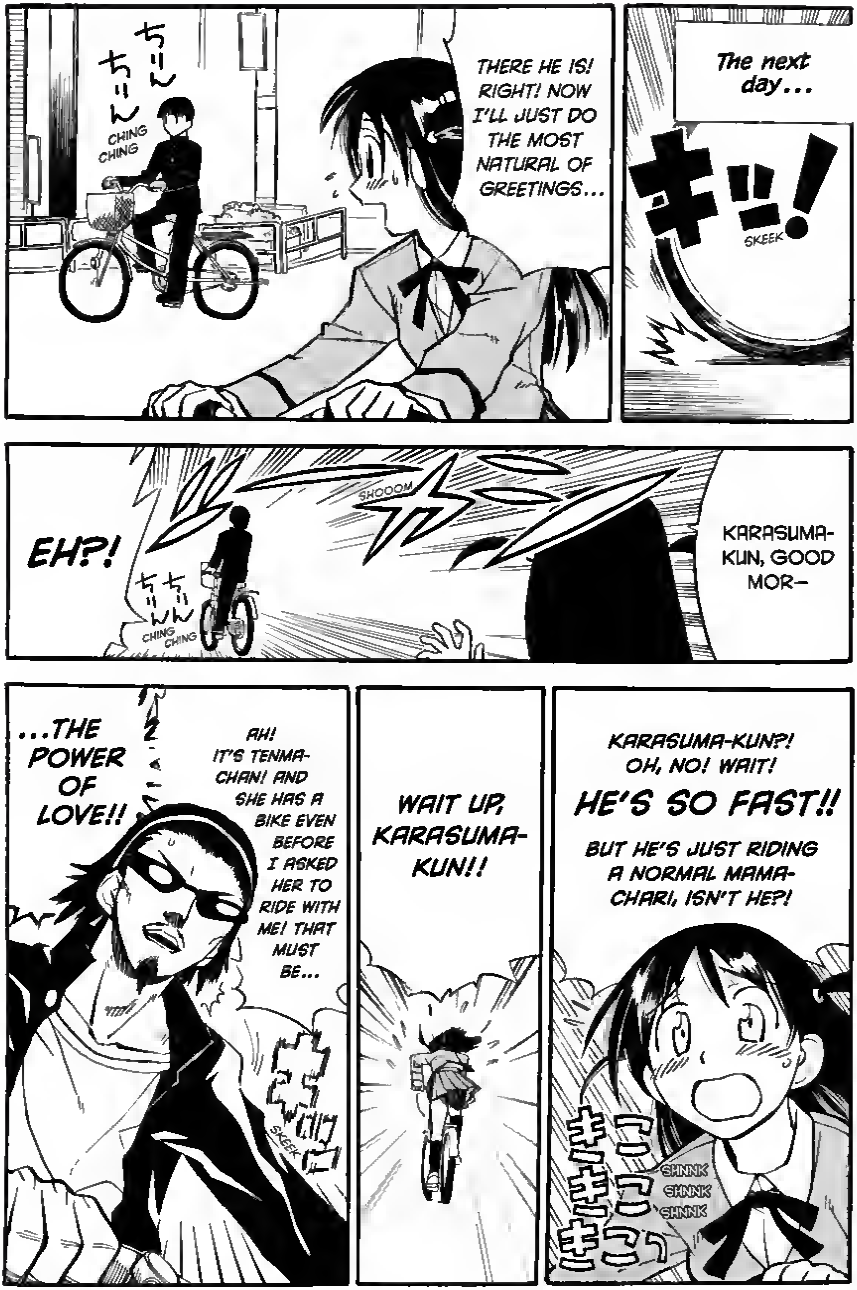
#07 DEATH RACE 2003

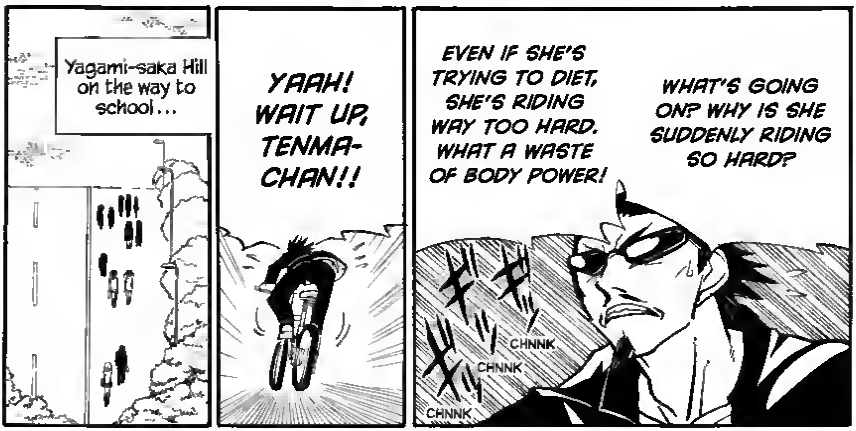

TIME, HUH? I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN GET KARASUMA-KUN TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH ME...
ヒラ
FLUTTER
ヒラ
FLUTTER
AH! A BUTTER-FLY!
An overpass on the way to school...

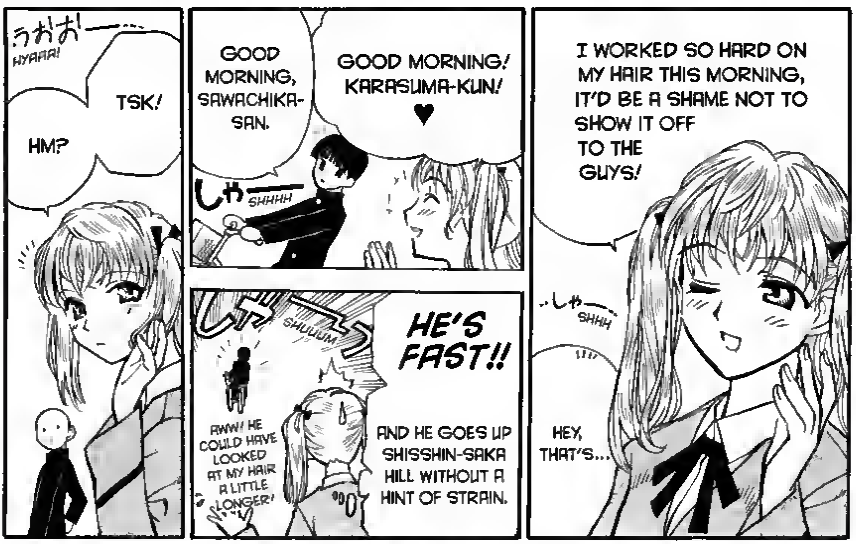





WE HAVE NICE WEATHER AGAIN TODAY, DON'T WE, TSUKAMOTO-SAN?
YEP!
WE HAVE NICE WEATHER AGAIN TODAY, DON'T WE, HARIMA-SAN?
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT, HUH?
THAT'S IT!!!
DM DM DM DM
THIS COULD WORK!!
TMP


THERE HE IS! RIGHT! NOW I'LL JUST DO THE MOST NATURAL OF GREETINGS...
CHING CHING
The next day...
キッ!
SKEEK
EH?!
SHOOOM
CHING CHING
KARASUMA-KUN, GOOD MOR–
...THE POWER OF LOVE!!
AH! IT'S TENMA-CHAN! AND SHE HAS A BIKE EVEN BEFORE I ASKED HER TO RIDE WITH ME! THAT MUST BE...
SKEEK
WAIT UP, KARASUMA-KUN!!
KARASUMA-KUN?! OH, NO! WAIT!
HE'S SO FAST!!
BUT HE'S JUST RIDING A NORMAL MAMA-CHARI, ISN'T HE?!
SHNNK SHNNK SHNNK


Yagami-saka Hill on the way to school...
YAAH! WAIT UP, TENMA-CHAN!!
EVEN IF SHE'S TRYING TO DIET, SHE'S RIDING WAY TOO HARD. WHAT A WASTE OF BODY POWER!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS SHE SUDDENLY RIDING SO HARD?
CHNNK
CHNNK
CHNNK



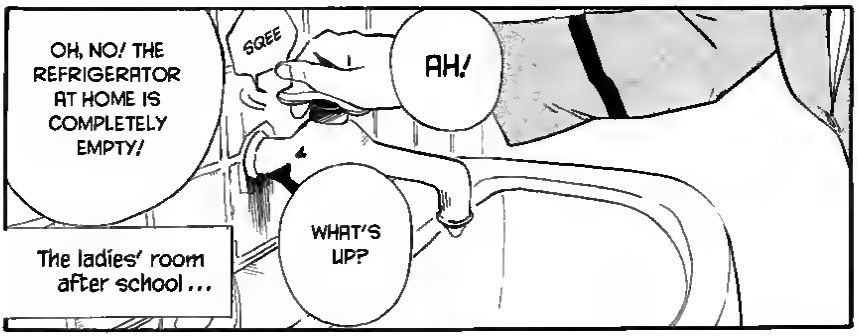
↑ Sawachika misread Yagami-saka Hill as Shisshin-saka Hill.

SKRRCH
SHKMM
SHKMM
SHKMM
DMF
GEECH

ZHOOOM
SWAAAAAM
GR...CH

I'M NOT OUTTA THIS YET!
NO! I MEAN, PLEASE WAIT FOR ME...
I SAID WAIT, YOU LITTLE...
M-MY HAIR...
2-C
And at school...
ガー
SCHNOOR
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
...and completely wasted the time they could have spent with the object of their affections.
The exhausted pair fell quickly asleep...
A completely unfazed Karasuma.
TWITCH
KRCHNK

07 . . . . . Fin.



I SHOULD LEAVE SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PICK UP GROCERIES.
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE FOR DINNER?
COOKING? YOU? I NEVER EXPECTED THAT!
EH? OH, YEAH. WELL...
I'M EXPECTING YAKUMO TO COOK IT.
KREE

08 THE GREAT ESCAPE

HM...
YOU KNOW, YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE A SPOILED RICH GIRL.
HUH? YOU THINK SO?
I-IT'S KARASUMA-KUN!
Reflexively...
ZWIP
THE MINUTE A GIRL STOPS HERSELF FROM LEAVING, IT'S SO HARD TO LEAVE AGAIN.
I'M SO STUPID!
OH, HECK!
IS THAT WHAT I'M LIKE AT ABOUT BEING SEEN LEAVING THE LADIES ROOM?
HUH? WHY AM I HIDING?!
...NO. I DON'T REALLY GET IT MYSELF, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
UM... YOU'RE BLOCKING THE DOOR.
TSUKAMOTO-SAN
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
OHHH!
WHAT'LL I DO?!
IT'S JUST A BATHROOM! THAT'S ALL!!

IT TAKES SOME NERVE TO STAND OUTSIDE THE LADIES' RESTROOM CASUALLY CHATTING.
AWW! KARASUMA-KUN, YOU BIG DUMMY!
BUT THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT HIM!
HE'S STILL THERE.
STARE
A BATTLE OF WILLS!
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.
So...
RIGHT! YOU'LL SEE HOW MUCH I CAN TAKE!!
A HALLWAY CHAT CAN'T TAKE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES TOPS!
I'LL JUST CONSIDER THIS A TEST.
OKAY THEN! YOU'LL SEE JUST HOW STRONG-MINDED A WOMAN CAN BE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, A PERSON HAS TO ENDURE A LOT IN LOVE, TOO!
HE'S TAKEN TO READING OUT THERE!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE A NOVEL
HOW BRIGHT THE SUN IS OUT HERE!
THAT'S 30 MINUTES I'VE HELD OUT FOR!
TIME TO LEAVE!
KREEE

TSUKAMOTO, ARE YOU STILL IN THE BATHROOM?
NOT POSSIBLE, RIGHT?
KREE
I TAKE THREE STEPS, AND SHE'S GONE.
MISSION NO. 2! LEAVING IN DISGUISE!
GACHAK
Toilet Paper.
IT ISN'T LIKE I HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF OPTIONS! AS LONG AS I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF NOBODY ELSE DOES!
MUMBLE MUMBLE
EYAAH?!
WHAA-?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
I'M GOING HOME. OKAY, TSUKAMOTO?
Changing her voice.
AH, YOUR TIMING IS PERFECT!
GUESS WHO!
FLY !!!
WHUMM
PLAN NO. 3! I'LL THROW THIS MOP TO DRAW HIS ATTENTION AWAY, AND THEN MAKE MY MOVE!
MOP.
ONE ...
TWO ...

NOW I CAN'T EVER LEAVE!
WHAAH! WHY? WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN TO ME?!
CALL THE POLICE!
NIGHT PATROL PEOPLE
NO THOUGHTS ABOUT HARIMA AT ALL?
GONK
PWOOO
IT COULD WORK!!
Rubber suction-cup plunger
MIKOTO-CHAN GIVE UP ON ME AND WENT HOME.
I'M A WOMAN WARRIOR STANDING ALONE ON THE BATTLEFIELD
SHIPOH
SHIPOH
SORRY HARIMA-KUN! I'LL APOLOGIZE TO YOU LATER!
AWW, NOTHING GOES RIGHT FOR ME!
SHOMP
GRIN, GRIN
HUH? IT WON'T COME OFF!
LEFT SIDE, SET!!
CHA-PPO
RIGHT SIDE, SET!!
CHA-PPO

S-SLOW SPEED DESCENT!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!
HYUUUUUU

I FINALLY MADE IT DOWN...
SLUMP
ひぁ～～
はぁっ
はぁっ
PANT
PANT
ぜぇ
ぜぇ
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
20 MINUTES LATER...
キュポンっ
CHA-PPO
UFF!
キュポンっ
CHA-PPO
NNGA!
キュポンっ
CHA-PPO
I CAN DO THIS!
HUFF!
AND HERE HE IS!!
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T HURT YOURSELF.

08 . . . . . Fin.

STATS:

Height: 170 cm (5' 7") maybe? Yeah, about that.

Favorite Thing: She says it's cooking and singing.

Least Favorite Thing: Her father, I hear. But in a different way than me with my father.

Special Talent: Every sport around, martial arts, drinks like a fish, and is so much more athletic than I am.

Childhood Dream: To become a nurse. I'm kidding about that, of course.

One Last Word: I'm so jealous of her free-flowing black hair, but I think she should get a more feminine cut. What a waste!

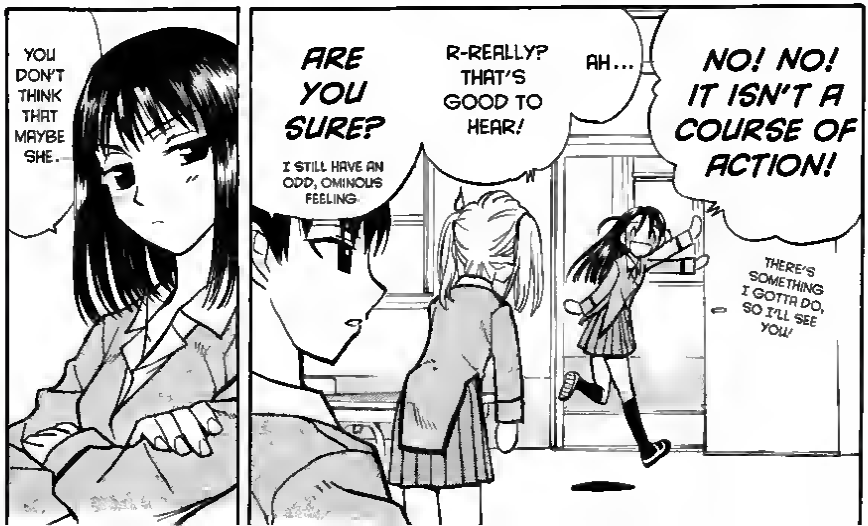
#09 THE GIRL WHO KNEW LITTLE

ワジワジワジ…
GM
95
0
5
10
HUUH?!
WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT?! IT MUST BE NICE TO BE YOU, YAKUMO!
HUMPH!!
AH!
SO TOMORROW IS THE MEASUREMENTS CHECK!
HOW COULD I FORGET THAT?
A SCALE? WHAT ABOUT IT?
?
THERE SEEMS TO BE AN OPPRESSIVE AURA AROUND IT...
YOU'LL CATCH COLD DOWN THERE.
And as *Titanic* sinks beneath the waves...
THIS HAS TO BE JUST A NIGHTMARE!
I KNOW IT IS/
AWW! I'LL HAVE TO WAKE UP SOON.
MUMBLE MUMBLE
At this point it's best to state that whatever happens, it isn't the scale's fault.
NO YOU DON'T, SCALE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET THE BETTER OF ME!!
HK.NGGH
Go to it! Tenma!!
BOW
BE NICE TO ME!

The day of the measurements check at school...
KARASUMA-KUN WILL GET A MEASUREMENTS CHECK TOO, HUH?
I WONDER...
GYAAH!!
I WANNA KNOW! I WANNA KNOW! IT'S LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T KNOW KARASUMA-KUN'S DATA!
WHAT'S HIS HEIGHT? A HUNDRED SEVENTY... ONE? TWO? (5' 7" OR 5' 8")
HIS WEIGHT SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE PRETTY LIGHT... HE GIVES A LIMBER KIND OF IMPRESSION.
BUT I CAN NEVER REALLY GUESS AT A GUY'S WEIGHT.
HMM...
HEY! ABOUT TODAY...
POP

HEY, TSUKA–
EH?! I-I'M SORRY!!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SORRY FOR?
HEY!
COME ON! WHY DO YOU LIKE APOLOGIZING SO MUCH?
ALL THE GUYS ARE STRANGELY NERVOUS.
BUT HIS CHEST SIZE IS PROBABLY BIGGER THAN MINE.
IT MAKES ME A LITTLE MAD AND A LITTLE DEPRESSED.
OH, THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL WORKED UP WITH NASTY LITTLE THOUGHTS OVER THE MEASUREMENT CHECK TODAY.
IF THEY'RE SO WORKED UP TO SEE THAT KIND OF THING, THEY SHOULD JUST BECOME DOCTORS OR NURSEMAIDS.
BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE CREEPY? BOYS SUDDENLY MADE USELESS BY THEIR OWN IMAGINATIONS?
"IF THEY'RE SO WORKED UP, THEY SHOULD JUST BECOME DOCTORS..."
THEN MAYBE A NURSE...?
ALL I'M SAYING IS THE BOYS AREN'T PUTTING ANY REAL EFFORT INTO WHAT THEY WISH FOR!
?
ARE YOU SOME KIND OF IDIOT?!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING THAT FOR A WHILE.
CORRECTION. THE WORD IS NOT "NURSEMAIDS," BUT "NURSES."
NURSEMAID IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

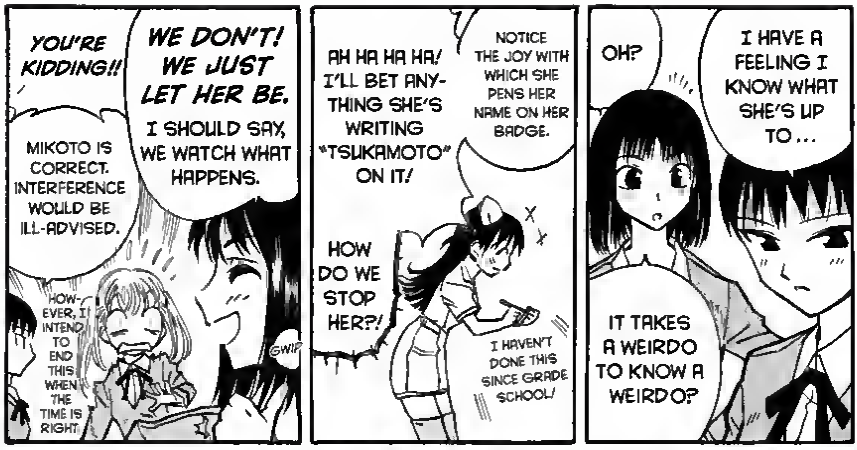
AHHH! DON'T ASK ME!
DOESN'T IT SEEM AS THOUGH SHE SUDDENLY SETTLED ON A COURSE OF ACTION?
IT COULD WORK!
JUST BECOME A NURSE!!
IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WAS SERIOUS!
KNOWING HER...


YOU DON'T THINK THAT MAYBE SHE...
ARE YOU SURE?
I STILL HAVE AN ODD, OMINOUS FEELING.
R-REALLY? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR!
AH...
NO! NO! IT ISN'T A COURSE OF ACTION!
THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA DO, SO I'LL SEE YOU!

THAT LITTLE IDIOT!!

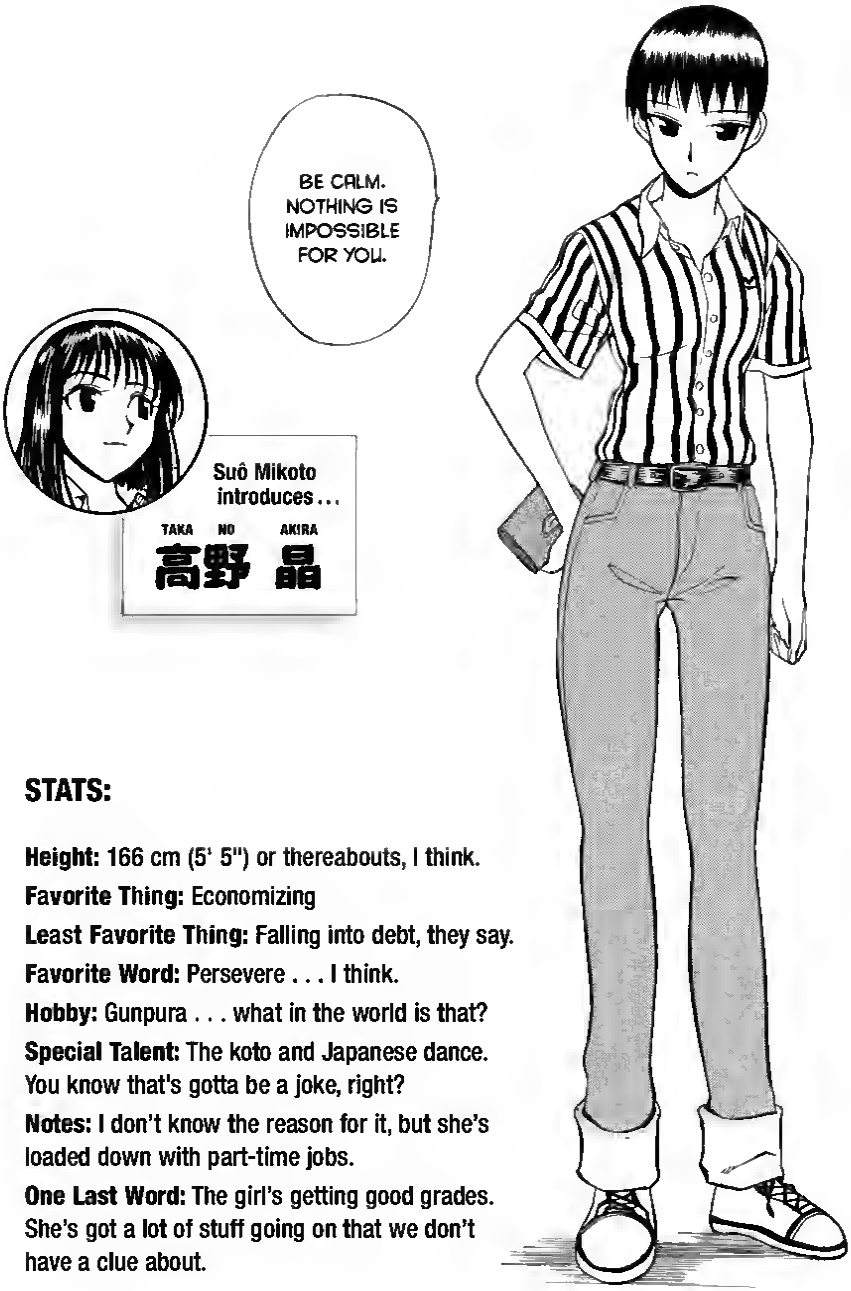
FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
THAT ISN'T THE PROBLEM!
THEY'LL KNOW IT'S HER FROM HER HAIR STYLE!
GRAH!
MURMUR
MURMUR

GREAT!
A COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION!!
DOOOM


YOU'RE KIDDING!!
WE DON'T! WE JUST LET HER BE.
I SHOULD SAY, WE WATCH WHAT HAPPENS.
MIKOTO IS CORRECT. INTERFERENCE WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED.
HOWEVER, I INTEND TO END THIS WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
GWIP
AH HA HA HA! I'LL BET ANYTHING SHE'S WRITING "TSUKAMOTO" ON IT!
NOTICE THE JOY WITH WHICH SHE PENS HER NAME ON HER BADGE.
HOW DO WE STOP HER?!
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE GRADE SCHOOL!
OH?
I HAVE A FEELING I KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO...
IT TAKES A WEIRDO TO KNOW A WEIRDO?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!!
TOK DAH!
ALL RIGHT!! I GOT MYSELF A SET OF KARASUMA-KUN'S MEASUREMENTS!

I'M A SUDDEN TRANSFER. DR. HARIMA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
THE SAME GOES FOR ME. SORRY FOR MY LATE ARRIVAL.
IT IS SO NICE TO BE WORKING WITH YOU, DOCTOR!
And not too long afterward, the measurement checks for the day were canceled.
For some reason or other...
#09 . . . . . Fin.



STATS:

Height: 166 cm (5' 5") or thereabouts, I think.

Favorite Thing: Economizing

Least Favorite Thing: Falling into debt, they say.

Favorite Word: Persevere . . . I think.

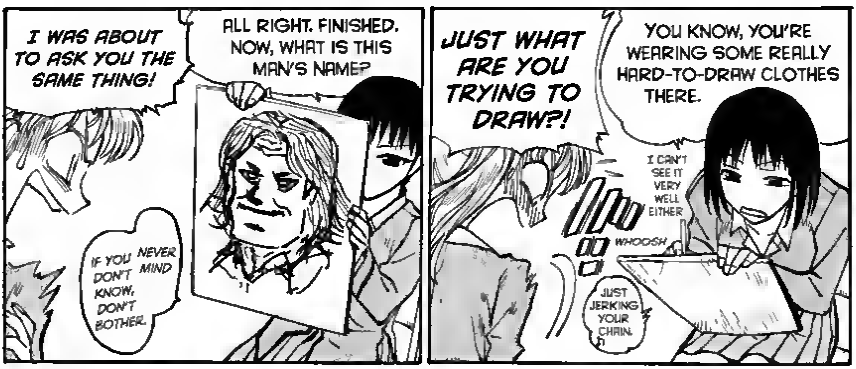
Hobby: Gunpura . . . what in the world is that?

Special Talent: The koto and Japanese dance. You know that's gotta be a joke, right?

Notes: I don't know the reason for it, but she's loaded down with part-time jobs.

One Last Word: The girl's getting good grades. She's got a lot of stuff going on that we don't have a clue about.

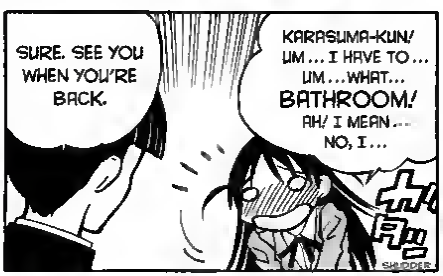
In the classroom for art class...
HA HA
TEE HEE
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BORING FOR GIRLS TO HAVE TO DRAW EACH OTHER?
SAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE'RE FINALLY IN ART CLASS DOING FIGURE DRAWINGS FROM LIFE.
GEEZ! DOESN'T SHE EVER STOP WITH THE COM-PLAINTS?
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SKETCH SKETCH
The left-over three-some.
#10 LA BELLE NOISEUSE
I DON'T GET IT. YOU BOTH HAVE PLENTY TO SPARE IN THE LOOKS DEPARTMENT. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
DON'T YOU TWO EVER TALK ABOUT BOYS?


I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING!
ALL RIGHT. FINISHED. NOW, WHAT IS THIS MAN'S NAME?
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, NEVER MIND. DON'T BOTHER.
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DRAW?!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE WEARING SOME REALLY HARD-TO-DRAW CLOTHES THERE.
I CAN'T SEE IT VERY WELL EITHER
WHOOSH
JUST JERKING YOUR CHAIN.

YES, LET'S DO THAT.
I-I'M PAIRED WITH KARASUMA-KUN?!
L-LET'S TRY TO DO OUR BEST, OKAY?
WHEN I LOOK INTO KARA-SUMA-KUN'S EYES...
GLIMPSE
B-BUT...
HOW'RE YOU GONNA DO YOUR BEST WHEN YOU'RE HIDING YOUR FACE?
KARASUMA-KUN CAN'T DRAW YOU.
MUMBLE MUMBLE
YET SOMEHOW IT MAKES IT EASIER FOR KARASUMA-KUN TO DRAW.
AND HERE WE ARE, A GROUP OF GIRLS!
SHE HASN'T MOVED AN INCH IN A WHILE NOW. DOES SHE EVEN WANT TO DO THIS?
SKRCH SKRCH
GRCHIK
KRCHIK
ZANNG

KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS
LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING
UMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME
KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KARAS
G AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS
LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOK
A-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME
KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KARAS
E KARASUMA-KUN IS
LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOK
A-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME
KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KARAS
AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS
LOOKING AT ME KARASUMA-KUN IS LOO
UN IS LOOKING AT ME
KARASUMA-KUN IS LOOKING AT ME KAR
T ME KARASUMA-KUN

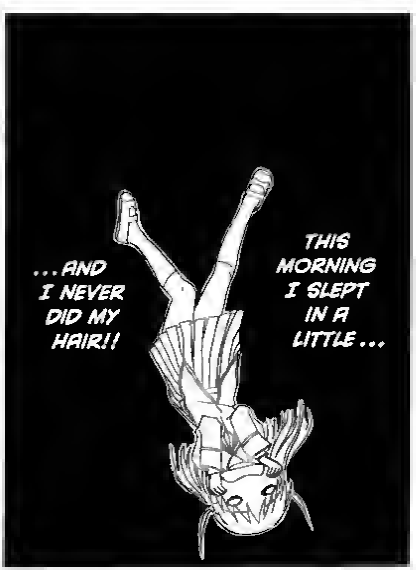
HEY, WAIT! I WANT HIM TO WATCH THE FUTURE ME, TOO! JUST STAY LIKE THIS! STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER!
WATCH ME! WATCH ME ENOUGH FOR A WHOLE LIFE'S WORTH OF WATCHING!!


SURE. SEE YOU WHEN YOU'RE BACK.
KARASUMA-KUN/ UM... I HAVE TO... UM...WHAT... BATHROOM! AH/ I MEAN... NO, I...
SHOOOT

AH?!

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
OH, HONESTLY!

WHOOSH


...AND I NEVER DID MY HAIR!!
THIS MORNING I SLEPT IN A LITTLE...

I KNOW! I CAN CUT IT TO A SHORT-HAIR LOOK!
IT ISN'T GETTING ANY BETTER!
THAT WON'T WORK! I'M TOO CLUMSY TO CUT MY OWN HAIR.
WAAH! WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TODAY? YAKUMO! WAKE ME UP AT THE RIGHT TIME!!
It's always someone else's fault.
AWWWW!
IT IS!!
FRIZZ AND SPLIT ENDS!
SHOO SHOO
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I MADE YOU WAIT SO LONG.
IT'S NO PROB-LEM.
I GUESS I CAN MANAGE WITH THIS.
HE'S GOT IT SO WRONG!!
BESIDES, HOLDING IT IN IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
NO, I REALLY DID IT FOR ME...
NO! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU BIG DUMMY! KARASUMA-KUN, YOU'RE SO DUMB! I DID IT FOR YOU!

STARE
GLIMPSE
I'LL JUST DO A NORMAL DRAWING.
I'D BETTER STOP THINKING LIKE THIS.
IF I WANT TO PLACE KARASUMA-KUN'S IMAGE ON PAPER, OUR GAZES MUST NATURALLY MEET AND INTERTWINE.
Gross overstatement.
I'M SO NERVOUS, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOOK AT HIM.
W-WHAT'LL I DO?
THERE! ♥ I DID IT!
SHFF
SHFF
IF I DRAW HIM WITH MY EYES SLIGHTLY OUT OF FOCUS...
Y-YES, THAT'S IT.

THAT ISN'T TRUE!!
I DON'T KNOW KARASUMA-KUN'S FACE AT ALL ANY MORE!
WHAT'LL I DO? WHAT'LL I DO?
THAT'S AWFUL!
WAIT JUST ONE SECOND! AM I REALLY SAYING THAT I DON'T KNOW KARASUMA-KUN'S FACE?
"DON'T KNOW"?
...LOSE SIGHT OF HIM!!
I WILL NEVER...
ZZT
I CAN JUST CLOSE MY EYES, AND...
HIS IMAGE BURNED INTO MY RETINAS!
I KNOW IT!
SNIFF
GLANCE
LOOK AT TSUKA-MOTO-SAN. SHE'S ON TOP OF THE WORLD!
AT LEAST DRAW LIKE A NORMAL PERSON, OKAY?

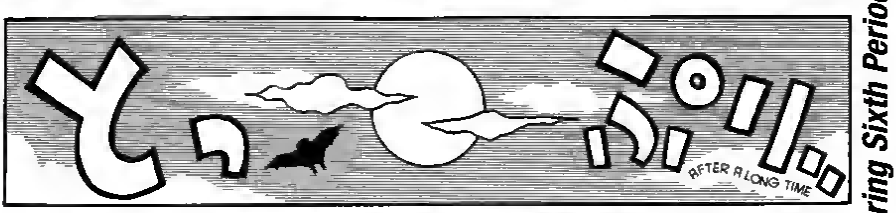
SHE WAS DRAWING WITH HER EYES CLOSED! WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
NOPE! IT'S JUST THAT EVERY SO OFTEN I COME UP WITH A GOOD PICTURE.
HEY, THAT'S A SURPRISE! YOU'RE NOT A BAD ARTIST, TSUKAMOTO. YOU BEEN PRACTICING?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
DINNING DONNING
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! TURN IN YOUR SKETCHES.
KLAP KLAP
AAH! I'VE BEEN CAUGHT!
BUT HOW'D YOU DRAW HIM AT AN ANGLE WITH HIM LOOKING AT YOU?

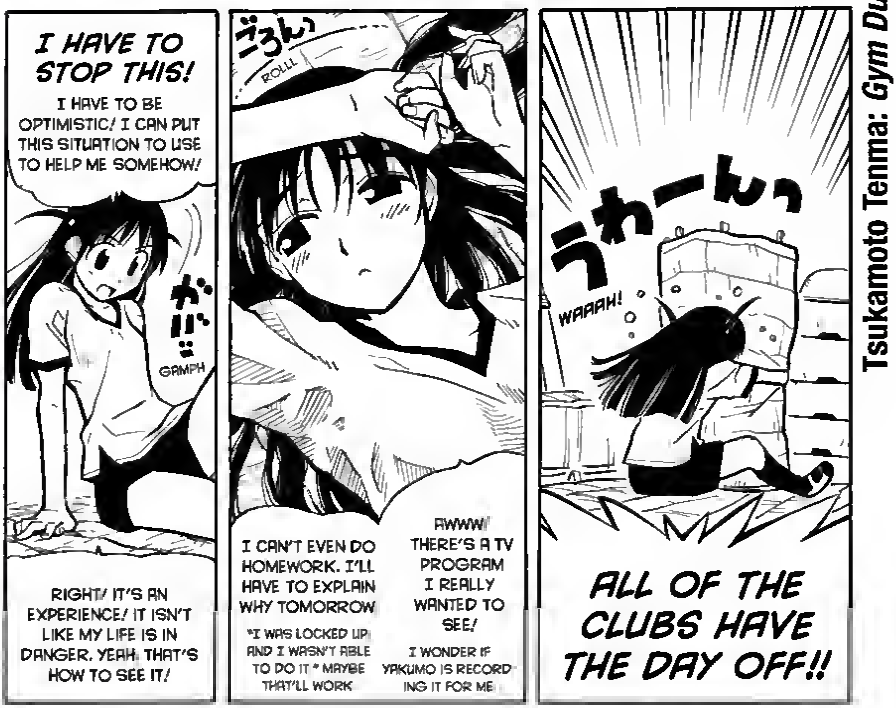
WHAT STYLE DID YOU DRAW ME IN?
KARA-SUMA-KUN...
SAWA-CHIKA! LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA TODAY?
WOULD THAT MEAN THAT HE THOUGHT THE REAL ME WAS CUTE? WELL, IT MAY NOT MEAN THAT...
MAYBE HE DREW A REALLY CUTE PICTURE OF ME...
BUT THAT'S HOW I'D TAKE IT!
NOW...
OKAY, THEN I'LL SUBMIT MINE RIGHT AFTER KARASUMA-KUN SUBMITS HIS.
THEN I'LL TAKE JUST A QUICK GLANCE.
I REALLY WANT TO KNOW!
Ukiyo-e.

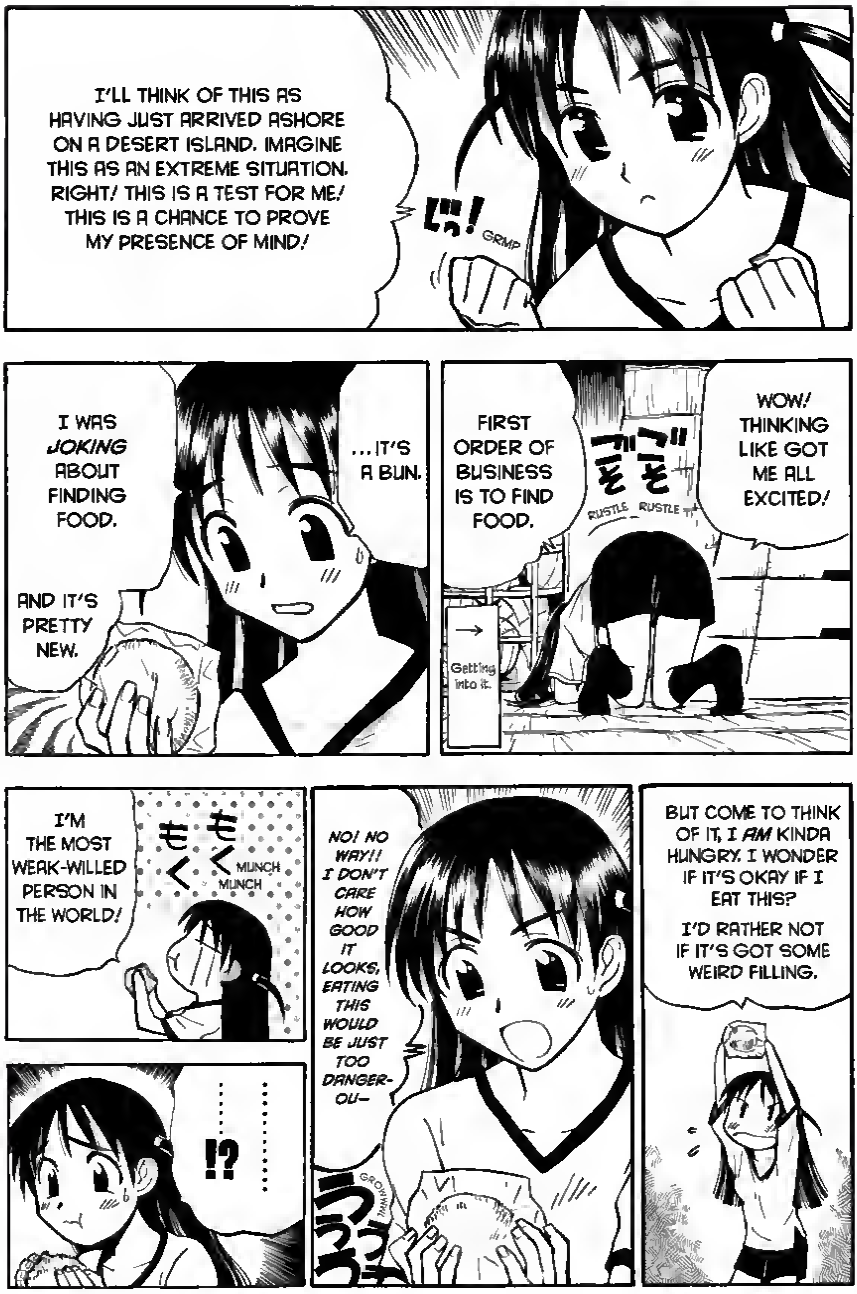
10 . . . . . Fin.

#11 THE TOWERING INFERNO

Tsukamoto Tenma is the type of girl who doesn't quite understand the situation until it becomes so serious that she can't ignore it.
In short, she's pretty dim.
O-OH, WELL. IT SHOULD BE OKAY.
ONCE CLUB ACTIVITIES BEGIN, SOMEBODY WILL COME BY.


とぅーぶぅ。。
AFTER A LONG TIME


I HAVE TO STOP THIS!
I HAVE TO BE OPTIMISTIC! I CAN PUT THIS SITUATION TO USE TO HELP ME SOMEHOW!
がぁ
GRMPH
RIGHT! IT'S AN EXPERIENCE! IT ISN'T LIKE MY LIFE IS IN DANGER. YEAH. THAT'S HOW TO SEE IT!
ごろん
ROLL
I CAN'T EVEN DO HOMEWORK. I'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHY TOMORROW
*I WAS LOCKED UP! AND I WASN'T ABLE TO DO IT * MAYBE THAT'LL WORK
AWWW! THERE'S A TV PROGRAM I REALLY WANTED TO SEE!
I WONDER IF YAKUMO IS RECORDING IT FOR ME
うわーんっ
WAAAH!
ALL OF THE CLUBS HAVE THE DAY OFF!!


I'LL THINK OF THIS AS HAVING JUST ARRIVED ASHORE ON A DESERT ISLAND. IMAGINE THIS AS AN EXTREME SITUATION. RIGHT! THIS IS A TEST FOR ME! THIS IS A CHANCE TO PROVE MY PRESENCE OF MIND!
GRMP
I WAS *JOKING* ABOUT FINDING FOOD.
AND IT'S PRETTY NEW.
...IT'S A BUN.
FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO FIND FOOD.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
Getting into it.
WOW! THINKING LIKE GOT ME ALL EXCITED!
I'M THE MOST WEAK-WILLED PERSON IN THE WORLD!
MUNCH MUNCH
!?
NO! NO WAY!! I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD IT LOOKS, EATING THIS WOULD BE JUST TOO DANGER-OU-
GROWL
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, I *AM* KINDA HUNGRY. I WONDER IF IT'S OKAY IF I EAT THIS?
I'D RATHER NOT IF IT'S GOT SOME WEIRD FILLING.

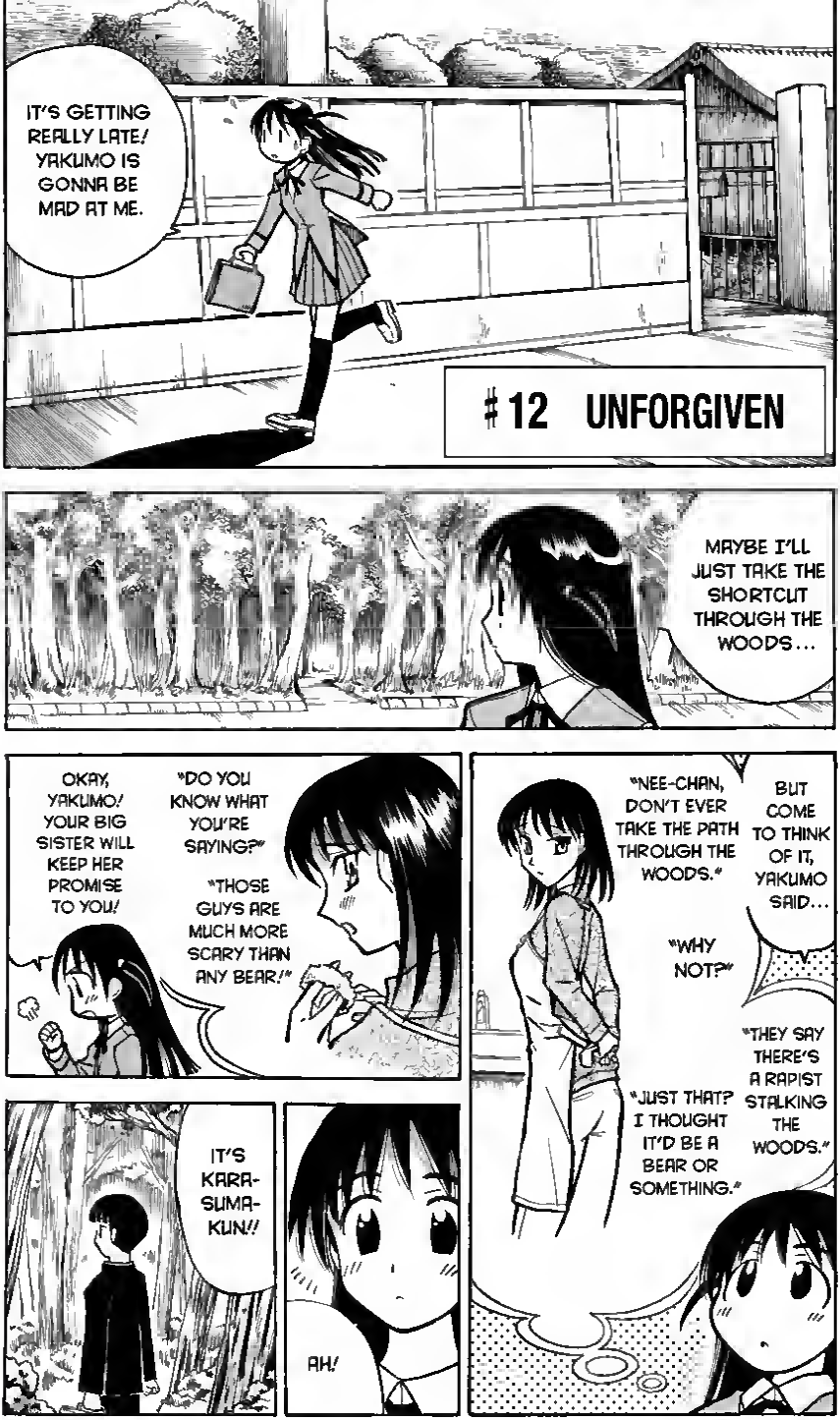
GAK! "FLAMING HOT CURRY BUN"?!
NO WONDER! I AM SO BAD WITH SPICY FOODS! AW, MAN!!
KAFF! KAFF! KAFF!
IT'S HOT!!
IT'S TOO SPICY!
BUT WHAT'LL I DO? THE PLUMBING DOESN'T COME UP HERE! NOW I'M IN A REAL BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL!
GULP! I'M GETTING THIRSTY. I WANT WATER!
YOU DUMB—!!
KRIKK
HUH? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE THIS WORK? THERE'S NO SWITCH...
NGH! UFF! COME ON, WORK! YOU LITTLE—
UNNNG! THIS IS BEGINNING TO TICK ME OFF!!
AH! I KNOW! I CAN USE THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM!
THERE IS ACCESS TO WATER UP HERE!

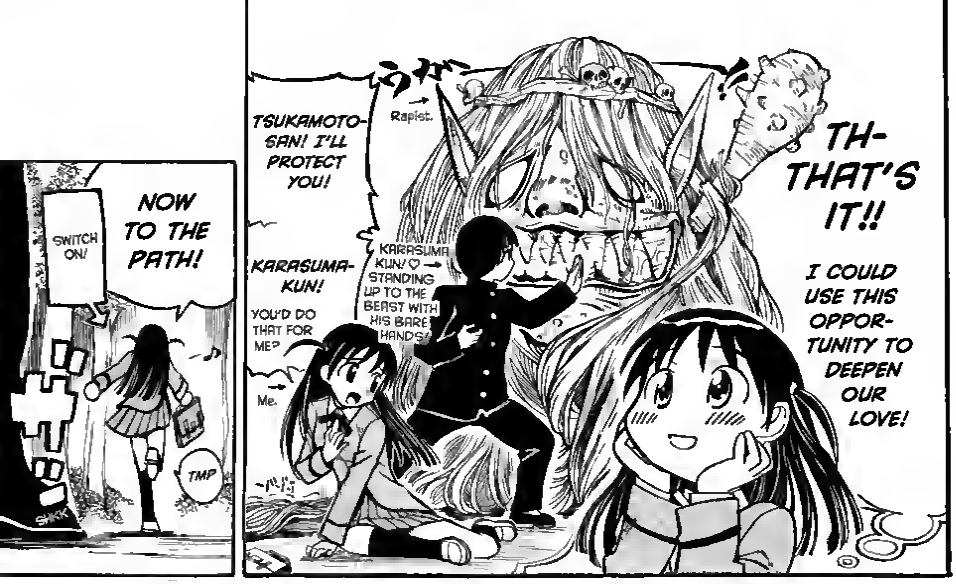
AHHH! NOW I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE SHIPWRECKED. YUP, I SURE DO!
WOW! THIS FEELS SO GOOD! WATER! I MADE WATER!
SHHHHH
KLUNK
SHHHHH
I OPENED THE PIPE!
I DID IT! IT'S WORKING!
I WONDER WHAT I'D THINK IF I COULDN'T EVER GET OUT OF HERE.
I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES OR A TOWEL.
WHY DON'T I EVER REALIZE THE OBVIOUS THINGS LIKE THAT? IT'S A MYSTERY
PLIP
PLIP
I THINK I'D BE A LITTLE MORE AT EASE KNOWING MY FATE...
...BUT I KNOW I'D BE LONELY.
I WONDER WHAT KARASUMA-KUN IS DOING RIGHT NOW.

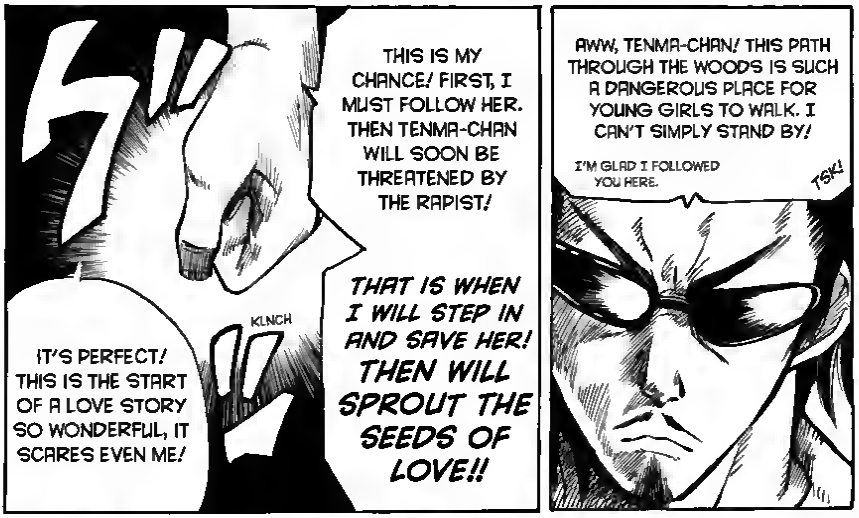
むくり
SHLIPP
YOU WERE SLEEPING HERE? THEN I'M SORRY I MADE SO MUCH NOISE!
EH? OH!
ペコペコ BOW BOW
IT'S HARD TO SLEEP.
ON THESE MATS
GLOOB
.....GLOOB?
B-BUT...
KARASUMA-KUN!! YOU CAME HERE TO SAVE ME?!

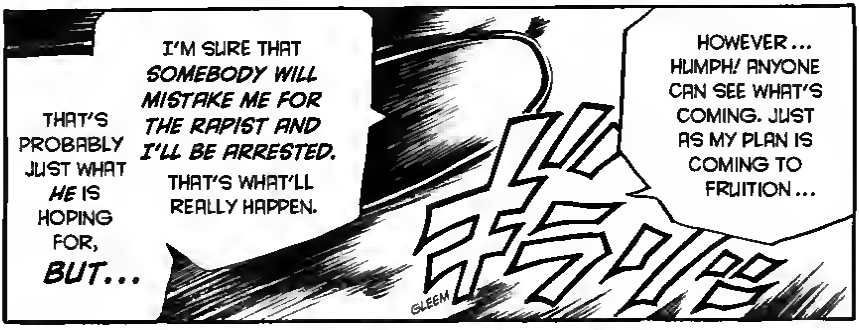
TMP
TSUKAMOTO-SAN IS PRETTY AMAZING.
Actually that was Karasawa kun's bun.
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
ZOOOM
I AM SO EMBARRASSED!!!

11 ..... Fin.


IT'S GETTING REALLY LATE! YAKUMO IS GONNA BE MAD AT ME.
12 UNFORGIVEN
MAYBE I'LL JUST TAKE THE SHORTCUT THROUGH THE WOODS...
OKAY, YAKUMO! YOUR BIG SISTER WILL KEEP HER PROMISE TO YOU!
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?"
"THOSE GUYS ARE MUCH MORE SCARY THAN ANY BEAR!"
"NEE-CHAN, DON'T EVER TAKE THE PATH THROUGH THE WOODS."
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, YAKUMO SAID...
"WHY NOT?"
"THEY SAY THERE'S A RAPIST STALKING THE WOODS."
"JUST THAT? I THOUGHT IT'D BE A BEAR OR SOMETHING."
IT'S KARA-SUMA-KUN!!
AH!


NOW TO THE PATH!
SWITCH ON!
SHICK
TMP
TSUKAMOTO-SAN! I'LL PROTECT YOU!
KARASUMA-KUN!
YOU'D DO THAT FOR ME?
Me.
Rapist.
KARASUMA-KUN!♡ STANDING UP TO THE BEAST WITH HIS BARE HANDS?
TH-THAT'S IT!!
I COULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN OUR LOVE!

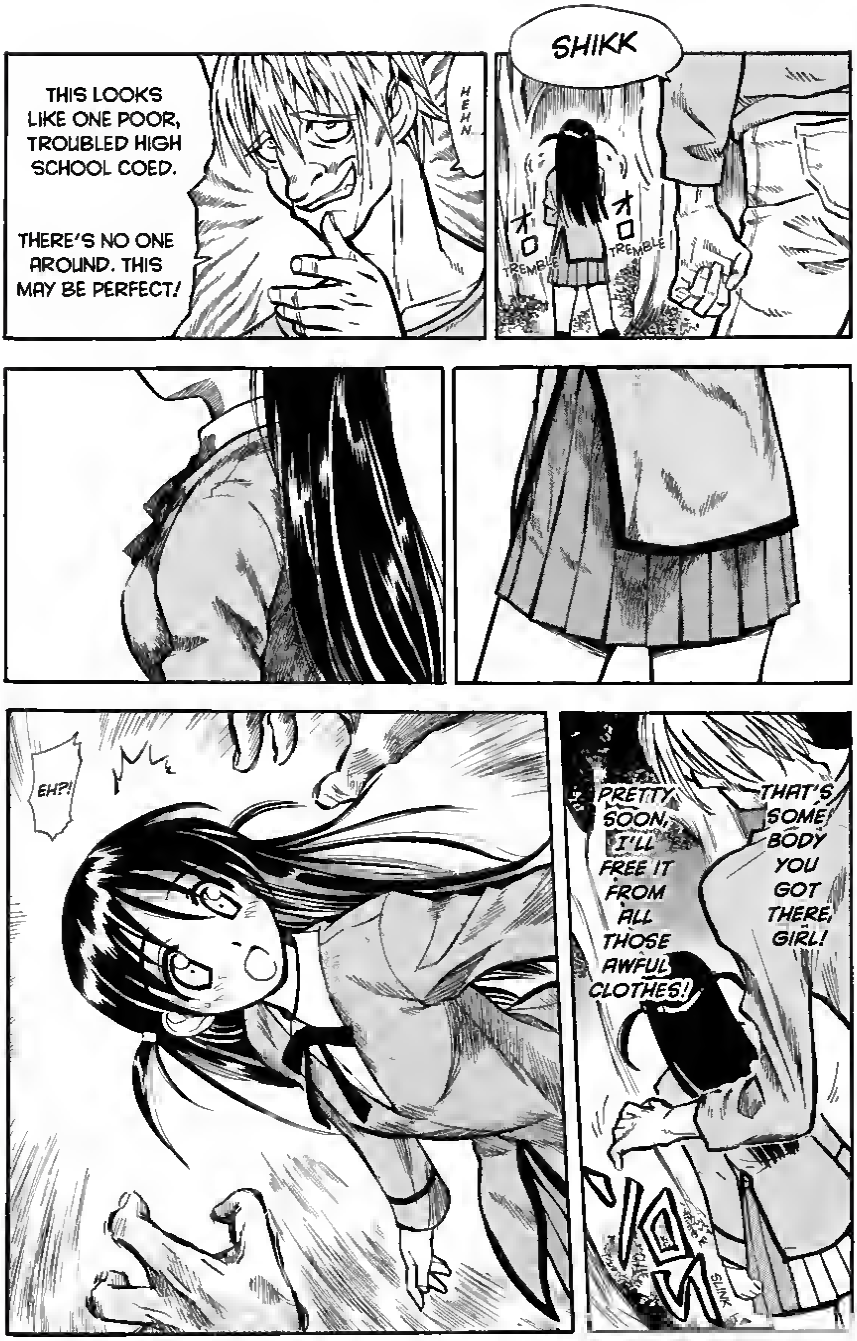

THIS IS MY CHANCE! FIRST, I MUST FOLLOW HER. THEN TENMA-CHAN WILL SOON BE THREATENED BY THE RAPIST!
THAT IS WHEN I WILL STEP IN AND SAVE HER! THEN WILL SPROUT THE SEEDS OF LOVE!!
IT'S PERFECT! THIS IS THE START OF A LOVE STORY SO WONDERFUL, IT SCARES EVEN ME!
KLNCH
AWW, TENMA-CHAN! THIS PATH THROUGH THE WOODS IS SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR YOUNG GIRLS TO WALK. I CAN'T SIMPLY STAND BY!
I'M GLAD I FOLLOWED YOU HERE.
TSK!

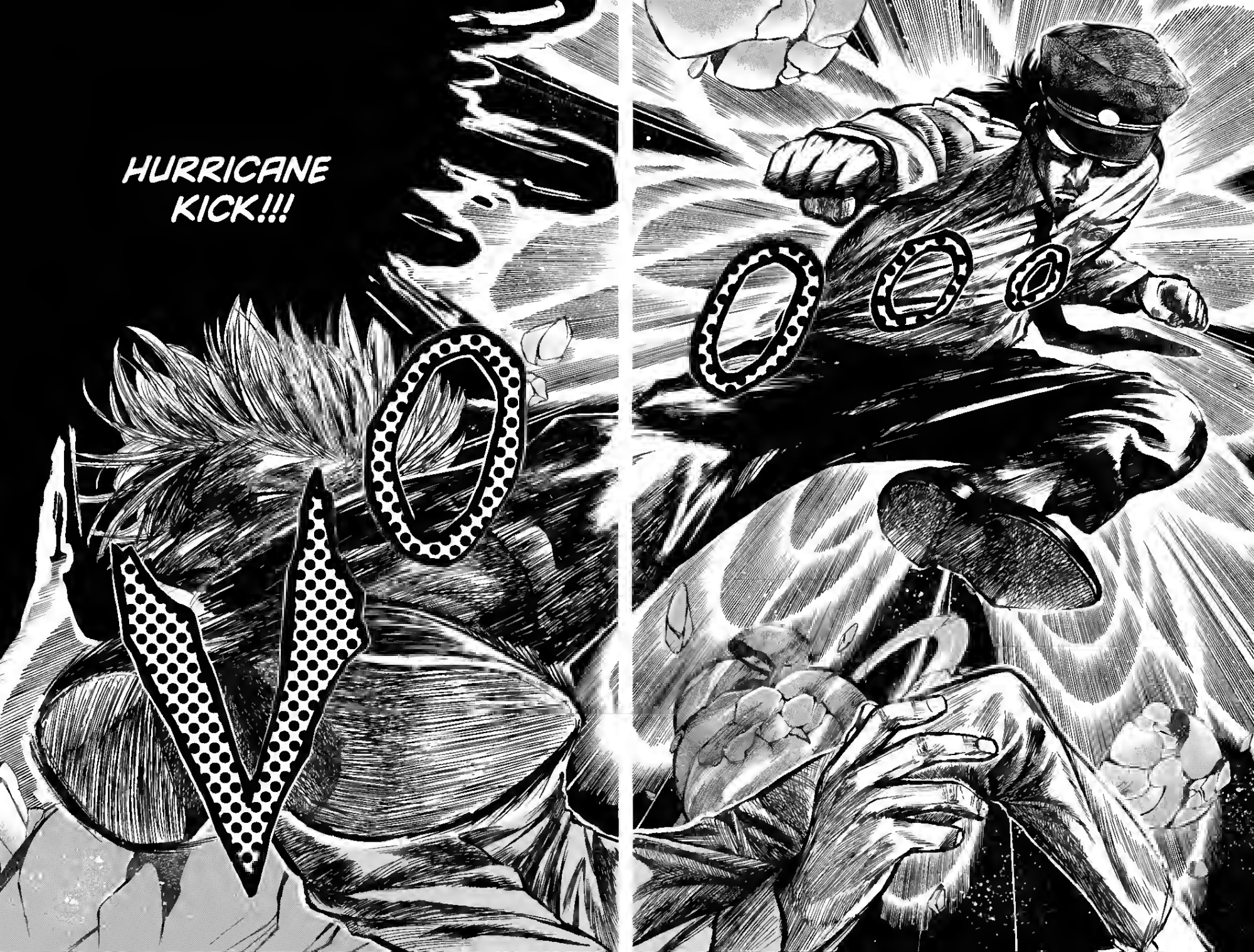

THAT'S PROBABLY JUST WHAT HE IS HOPING FOR, BUT...
I'M SURE THAT SOMEBODY WILL MISTAKE ME FOR THE RAPIST AND I'LL BE ARRESTED. THAT'S WHAT'LL REALLY HAPPEN.
GLEEM
HOWEVER... HUMPH! ANYONE CAN SEE WHAT'S COMING. JUST AS MY PLAN IS COMING TO FRUITION...

I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN EVEN WHEN THE PLOT IS WRITTEN BY AN A-LIST SCREENWRITER!
SOMEONE LIKE UCHIDATE MIKIKO!
TODAY, YOU'LL FIND THAT SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT ABOUT ME!
HE UNDERESTIMATES ME!
MY POLICE OFFICER DISGUISE IS PERFECT!
スチャ!
SKTCH

KAWW!
KAWW!

WHAT'LL I DO? I'VE EVEN LOST SIGHT OF KARASUMA-KUN!
IF THE RAPIST WERE TO ATTACK ME NOW . . .
I'VE LOST MY WAY!!


THIS LOOKS LIKE ONE POOR, TROUBLED HIGH SCHOOL COED.
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND. THIS MAY BE PERFECT!
HEHN
SHIKK
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
EH?!
PRETTY SOON, I'LL FREE IT FROM ALL THOSE AWFUL CLOTHES!
THAT'S SOME BODY YOU GOT THERE, GIRL!
SLINK


HURRICANE
KICK!!!

RAPE IS A CRIME, MISTER.
JUSTICE IS DONE!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I-IT WORKED PERFECTLY! TENMA-CHAN HAS NOW, UNDOUBTEDLY...
...COMPLETELY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME!
Y-YES, I AM! YOU SAVED ME! I...UM...

OHHHH,
NOOOO!!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. POLICEMAN!!
ペコッ
BOW

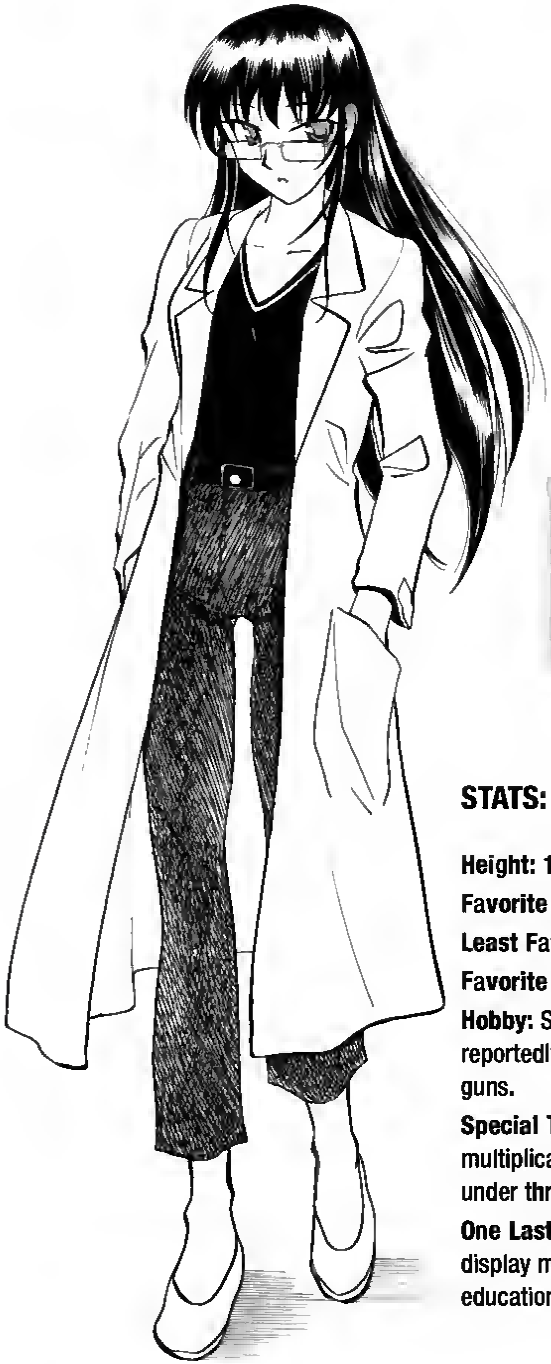
.....

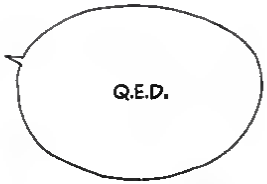
Like she trusts him absolutely
WHAT WONDERFUL WORK YOU DO.

H-HOW THICK CAN A GIRL GET?! YES, I AM A POLICEMAN AT THIS MOMENT, BUT IF I SIMPLY TAKE OFF THE HAT, SHE CAN'T HELP BUT REALIZE THAT I'M HARIMA!
BUT EVEN SO, I THINK IT'S SO GREAT THAT YOU'D GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP ME, A COMPLETE STRANGER!
YEAH...

GRIP
SSSST
JUST DOING MY JOB, MA'AM!
SHFF
YES, SIR! AND THANK YOU SO MUCH!
PLEASE TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF, TSUKAMOTO-SAN.
BUT MY DUTY IS FINISHED HERE.
SHIPP
OH, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
HOW DID HE KNOW MY NAME?
?

12.....Fin.





Takano Akira introduces...

OSA KA BE ITO BO

刑部紘子

STATS:

Height: 168 cm (5' 6")

Favorite Thing: Planck's Constant

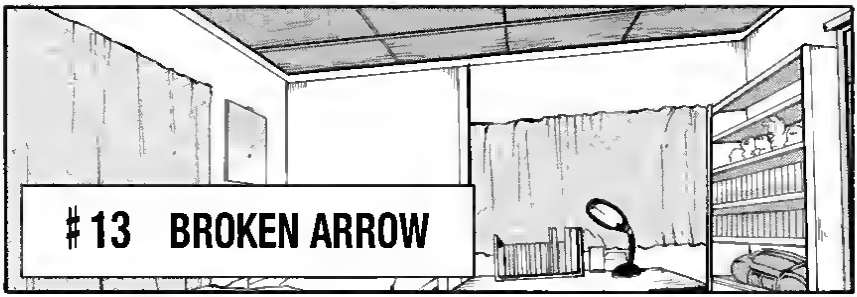
Least Favorite Thing: Extensions of classtime

Favorite Food: Functional foods

Hobby: She admires mechanisms and reportedly has a large collection of model guns.

Special Talent: Can recite the answer to a multiplication of any two five-digit numbers in under three seconds.

One Last Word: In my opinion, she should display more interest in teaching. Her education methods are impeccable.


13 BROKEN ARROW

...ABOUT MY LOVE LETTER TO KARASUMA-KUN?
WHAT'LL I DO...

SIGH!

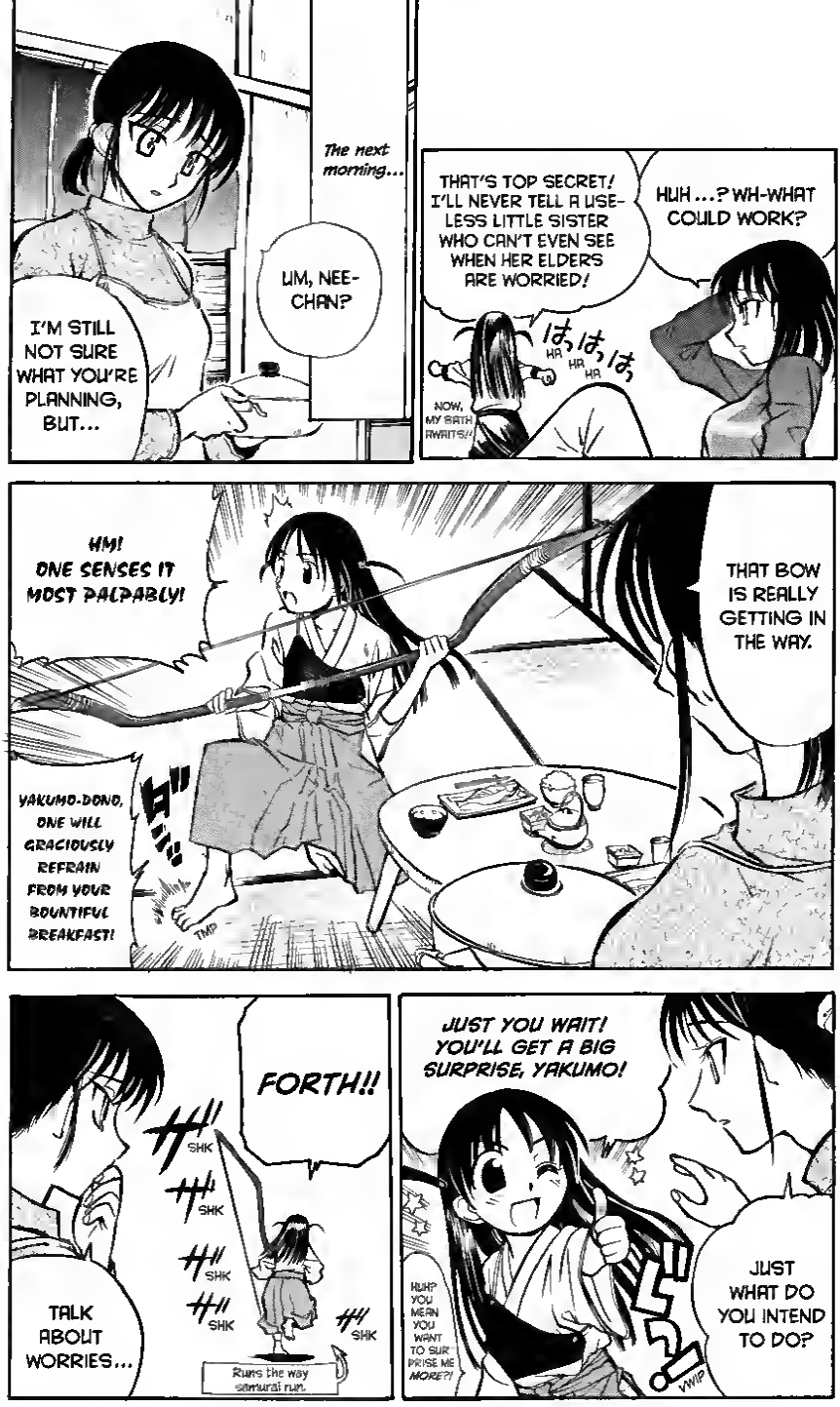
I WANT A WAY TO GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE THAT WILL LEAVE AN IMPRESSION.
I FIGURED OUT EARLIER THAT I HAVE NO TALENT FOR WRITING...
SO I HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE...

I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE YOU KNEW IT WAS GOING TO START...
EH?! IT'S TIME ALREADY?!
She's been like this thought ever since she got home.

CAN'T YOU TELL JUST BY LOOKING?! HONESTLY!
I'M SORRY.

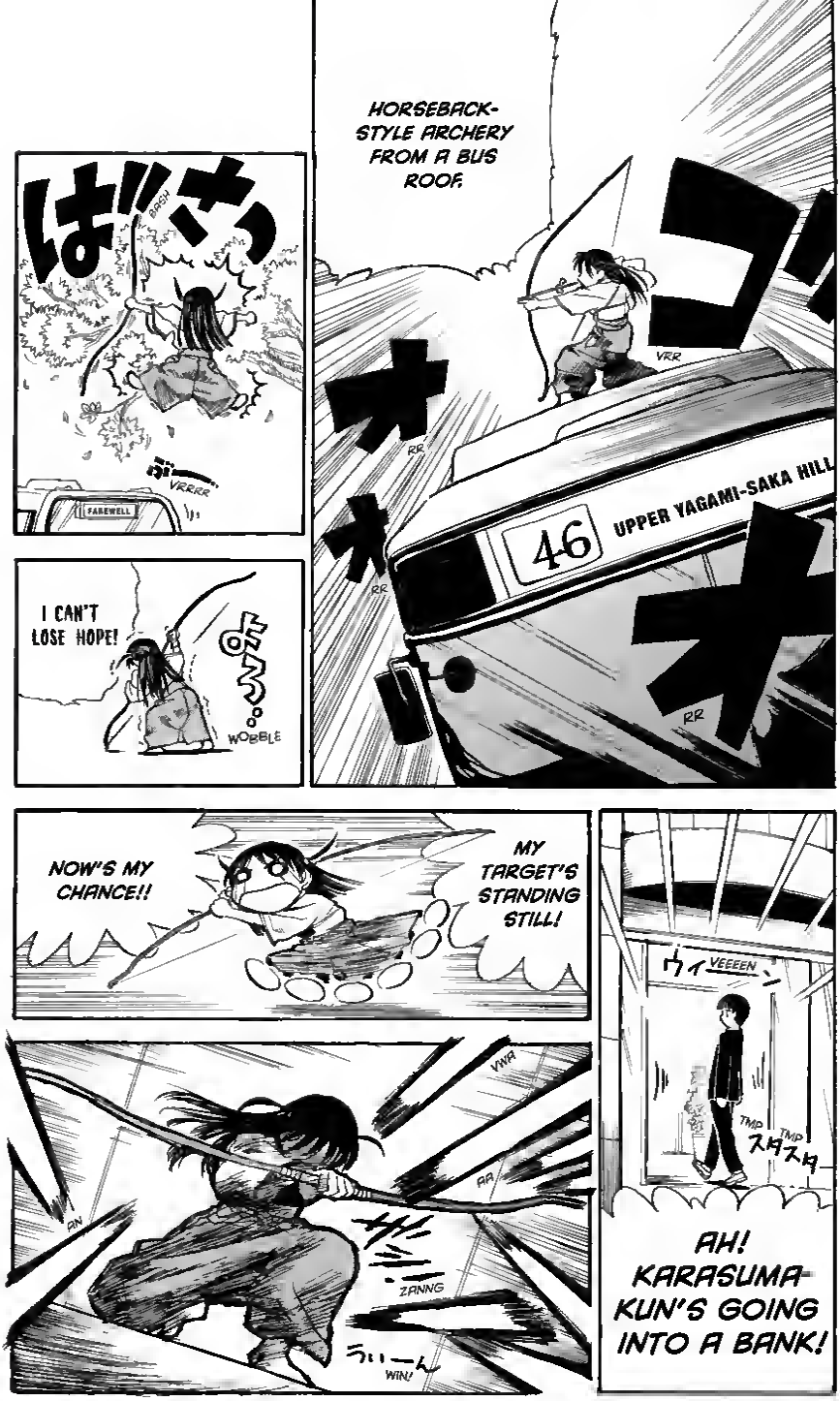
SHORT ON SLEEP?
I'M LONG ON WORRIES!!

NEE-CHAN, YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
WERE YOU REALLY WORRIED??
GET 'EM, MANGOKU!!
続 三匹が斬る!
THREE TO GET KILLED!
ちゃらら
DAN-DA DAN
A MESSAGE ON AN ARROW!
THAK
HM?
IT COULD WORK!!


The next morning...
I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, BUT...
UM, NEE-CHAN?
THAT'S TOP SECRET! I'LL NEVER TELL A USE-LESS LITTLE SISTER WHO CAN'T EVEN SEE WHEN HER ELDERS ARE WORRIED!
HUH...? WH-WHAT COULD WORK?
HA HA HA
NOW, MY BATH AWAITS!
HM! ONE SENSES IT MOST PALPABLY!
THAT BOW IS REALLY GETTING IN THE WAY.
YAKUMO-DONO, ONE WILL GRACIOUSLY REFRAIN FROM YOUR BOUNTIFUL BREAKFAST!
TMP
FORTH!!
SHK
TALK ABOUT WORRIES...
Runs the way samurai run.
JUST YOU WAIT! YOU'LL GET A BIG SURPRISE, YAKUMO!
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO SURPRISE ME MORE?!
JUST WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
VWIP

WE'RE READY FOR ANYTHING!
LISTEN, WE'RE GETTIN' TOGETHER TONIGHT.
BEEP
I WANT SOME COFFEE.
BOSS COFFEE IS THE ONLY ONE FOR A MAN!
Karasuma-kun even wears his uniform on days off.
TAK
TAK
Near the town train station...
THONK
EE EEE EE!!
The front part of his Regent-style haircut.
SUSS
VSSSH
YA KNOW, I BEEN PRETTY LUCKY UP TO NOW
I HAD ALL I CAN TAKE!
CHIEF!!
SWAA
...IS A MESSAGE ARROW!!
JUST LIKE THIS!
THE ONLY WAY TO DELIVER A PASSIONATE LOVE LETTER...

Harima Kenji: *Slow Motion.*


HORSEBACK-STYLE ARCHERY FROM A BUS ROOF.
コ
オ
オ
RR
RR
RR
VRR
46
UPPER YAGAMI-SAKA HILL
は〃さっ
BASH
VRRRR
FAREWELL
I CAN'T LOSE HOPE!
WOBBLE
NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
MY TARGET'S STANDING STILL!
VWA
AA
AN
ZANNG
ういーん
WIN!
ウィ VEEEEN
TMD
TMD
スタスタ
AH! KARASUMA-KUN'S GOING INTO A BANK!

OKAY, KARASUMA-KUN!
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DESTINY!!
.....
IT'S WRONG! IT ALL WENT SO WRONG!!
Surprised.
AMAZING!!
ARCHERY HIGH SCHOOL COED!
Thieves Hold Up Bank With Model Gun
SHE HAD THE BOW. SHE HAD THE COURAGE

13 . . . . . Fin.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FOOL FOR TENMA!

Osakabe Itoko introduces...

HARI MA KEN JI

播磨拳児

STATS:

Height: 180 cm (5' 11")

Favorite Thing: Curry

Least Favorite Thing: Shellfish, study

Favorite Actor: Yakushamaru Kōji (plays Mangoku)

Favorite Song: I'm always hearing the theme song from "Project A."

Special Talent: Fighting

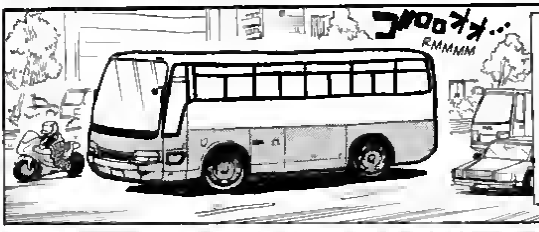
Weak Point: Dim-witted

Notes: During his middle-school years, he was so much trouble nobody could do a thing with him, but nowadays he's a lot quieter.

One Last Word: He needs to pay his rent by the end of each month!

#14 SPEED
YAAAY! A FIELD TRIP!
"FIELD TRIP"? REMINDS ME OF GRADE SCHOOL.
WE'RE TOO OLD FOR FIELD TRIPS! USE "RECREATION," THAT'S THE PROPER WORD.
SAME THING.
AH! IT'S KARASUMA-KUN!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT TODAY.
SHIK SHIK
I'LL SAY!!
WHERE IS HE SUPPOSED TO BE GOING?

YOU'RE SAYING THAT WHEN THE BUS STOPS, WE ALL GOTTA CHANGE SEATS?
WHY DO SWEET SNACKS TASTE SO MUCH BETTER ON DAYS LIKE THIS?
Inside the bus...
I DON'T NEED IT. I'LL PASS.
THE REASONING SEEMS TO BE THAT THE GIRLS SHOULD ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION WITH THE LESS FAMILIAR BOY CLASSMATES TO INCREASE OVERALL CLASS MORALE.
RIGHT! I MUST BE IN THE SEAT NEXT TO KARASUMA-KUN!!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR EATING PICKY STICKS!
MNCH MNCH MNCH MNCH MNCH
TH-THAT'S IT!



As a wide variety of thoughts and intentions intermingle within the bus, the journey begins.

However...

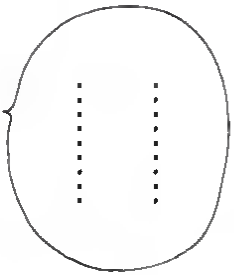
OH, HARIMA-KUN! HOW I WISH YOU'D *MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!*
AFTER I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THIS CLOSE, I'M REALLY GETTING SICK OF WAITING ANY LONGER!
I KNOW YOU'RE SICK OF WAITING ANY LONGER, TENMA-CHAN!!
DAMMIT! I WAS THIS CLOSE TO GETTING TO SIT BESIDE TENMA-CHAN!!
HEY!!
WHY AM I SITTING HERE QUIETLY PLAYING OLD MAID?!
BUT HE'S GOOD! I CAN'T READ HIM AT ALL!!
AFTER I READ A MOUNTAIN OF MAGAZINES JUST TO HAVE TOPICS OF CONVERSATION READY TO USE TODAY, I'M NOT GOING TO LET HER GET AWAY!
I WONDER IF TENMA LIKES MANGOKU?
TREMBLE TREMBLE
TOILET
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS ALL THE WAY TO THE PARKING AREA.
NEXT TIME, WE'RE SITTING TOGETHER!!
GRMMMMM
ゴ/ロ/ォ/ォ/!!
NOW, IT'S TIME TO GO!!

I CAUGHT THE WRONG BUS!!
HEY, YOUNGSTER! IF YOU CAUGHT THE EYE OF TSURU-SAN, THEN YOU MUST BE ONE IMPRESSIVE KIDDO!
MAKES ME WANT TO ADOPT YOU!
YEAH, THANKS.
Flower Playing Cards
NOOO!!
AND THIS OLD GUY'S PRETTY GOOD AT CARDS, TOO!
WHAT A SPLENDID YOUNG MAN YOU ARE!
AND SUCH A CUTE CHILD
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
TMP
FINALLY! THE SEAT NEXT TO KARASUMA-KUN IS EMPTY!
ゴオォォ
GRRRMM
Meanwhile, Tenma-chan is ...
BAMP
どん
WHY DON'T I SIT NEXT TO HIM?
OWWW!

HOW AWFUL!!
HI, KARASUMA-KUN.
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
FINE.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
YOU'LL HAVE THE SHAKIEST SEAT ON THE BUS!
YOU'LL BE TOO SICK TO STAY!
ONE SHOULD BEWARE OF THE CURSE OF ONE IN LOVE!!
ONE DIGS TWO GRAVES WITH THIS CURSE STUFF!
BUT I MADE MYSELF EVEN SICKER THAN I DID HER!
I'M FEELING A LITTLE CARSICK.
I DID IT!
VICTORY!
HAHH HAHH
SEE YOU LATER, KARA-SUMA-KUN.
HM?
I HAVE TO TAKE THAT ONE STEP TO GET CLOSER TO KARASUMA-KUN!
AT LEAST LET ME DIE IN HIS ARMS!
BUT THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE!!
EVEN IF I PASS OUT...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

B-BMP
B-BMP
U-UM... KARASUMA-KUN?
UFF!
I'M FINALLY SITTING NEXT TO HIM! I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT MY HEART'S BEATING TOO FAST.
I-I'M THE BUS DRIVER. BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, I'M JUST A LITTLE CARSICK.
M-MISTER, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
PANT
WHEEZE
HERE HE IS!
KARASUMA-KUN!! WHERE ARE YOU?!
GRMMM
HUH?! THEN WHERE DID KARASUMA-KUN GO OFF TO?!

14.....Fin.



Harima Kenji introduces...

KARASU MA Ô JI

烏丸大路

STATS:

Height: Dunno. A little shorter than me. 175 cm (5' 9") maybe?

Favorite Thing: Dunno

Least Favorite Thing: Dunno

Special Talent: Probably being judgmental. Aside from that, I hear he's good at school.

Hair Style: Really weird, huh?

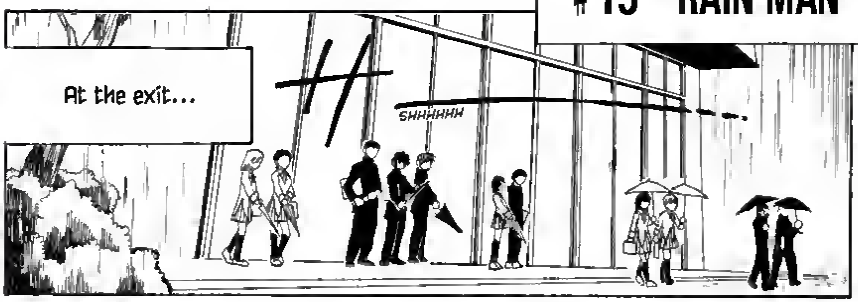
Name: I always thought it was Torimaru.

Distinguishing Feature: He's always sitting alone spacing out.

Notes: He'll be transferring away in a year. For me, that's perfect timing!

One Last Word: I got no idea what he's thinking, but I don't think he's all that annoying.

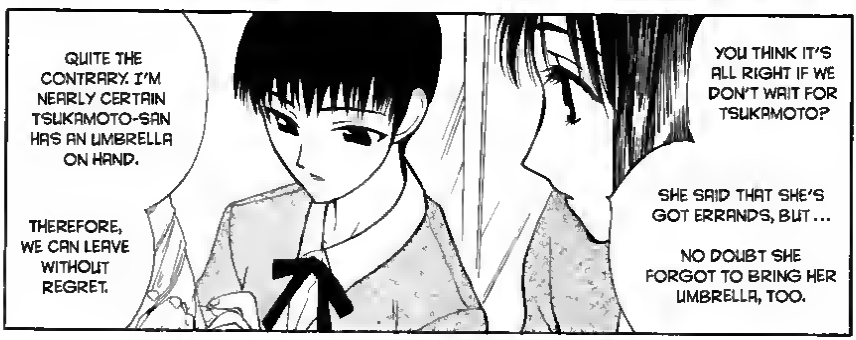
#15 RAIN MAN


At the exit...
SHHHHHH

NO, I'M NOT.
PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK.
I'M PRETTY CLOSE TO THAT, THOUGH.
MIKOTO... YOU'RE PRETTY TALL.
I'M NO SHORTY MYSELF.
YOU'RE ABOUT 172-173 CM (5' 8")?

OH, HELL!
FORGOT MY UMBRELLA.
THE RAINY SEASON'S STARTING, HUH?
SHHHH

SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
WE CAN BOTH FIT UNDER MINE.


QUITE THE CONTRARY. I'M NEARLY CERTAIN TSUKAMOTO-SAN HAS AN UMBRELLA ON HAND.
THEREFORE, WE CAN LEAVE WITHOUT REGRET.
YOU THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT IF WE DON'T WAIT FOR TSUKAMOTO?
SHE SAID THAT SHE'S GOT ERRANDS, BUT...
NO DOUBT SHE FORGOT TO BRING HER UMBRELLA, TOO.

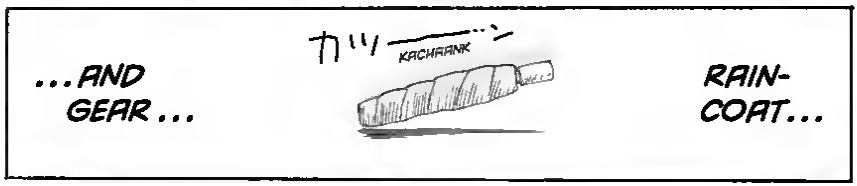
RIGHT! EVERY-BODY'S GONE HOME!
SHHHHH
KONNYAKU! I WANT TO EAT SOME KONNYAKU!
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
INTUITION.
I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ERRANDS.
SORRY, EVERY-BODY.
SHHHH
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
A MELAN-CHOLY RAIN.
I REALLY DO HAVE MY UMBRELLA! YAKUMO MADE SURE THAT I HAD ONE.
HEH HEH HEH! YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, MIKOTO-CHAN!
SEE!
BUT I...
BUT...
THIS DAY... THIS RAINY DAY IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR!
I HAD SOMETHING I COULDN'T PUT OFF!

SHAKIIN
THERE WILL BE NO MISTAKES TODAY!
...WE'LL SHARE THIS UMBRELLA!
KARASUMA-KUN AND I...
GONNG
ZUPP
OH!
JUST YOU WAIT, KARASUMA-KUN!
FWOOM
FWOOM
Lunging at full power.
AH!
ZZAKK

THIS STUPID THING! THIS STUPID THING.
THAKK
I FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!
THAT HURTS...
THAKK
OHH, NOOO!!
IF KARASUMA BROUGHT HIS UMBRELLA, THIS IS ALL USELESS!
EH?
I'M SO SORRY!!
NO, IT'S OKAY...
DRIP DRIP
DLLOPP DLLOPP
KYAAAAAH!! KARASUMA-KUN?!?!
DO YOU HAVE AN...
...UMBRELLA?
B-BY THE WAY, KARASUMA-KUN! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK...
FIDGET
UM... UH...
FIDGET

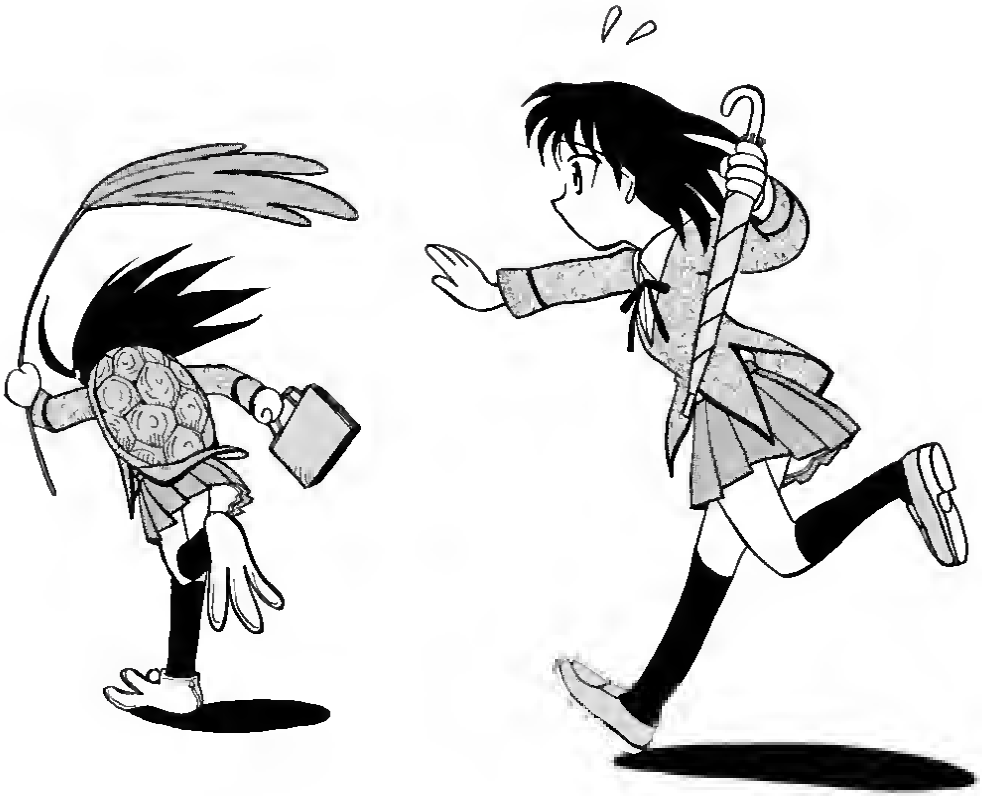
I-I HAVE MY UMBRELLA WITH ME!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, WE COULD SHARE...
I'M AFRAID NOT.
ALL...
...RIGHTY!!
...COAT!
RAIN...
I BROUGHT...
...MY RAINCOAT AND GEAR.
YUP!
YUP!
S-SURE! MODERN HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS BRING RAIN-COATS THESE DAYS!
THAT'S KARASUMA-KUN FOR YOU! TWO STEPS AHEAD OF THE NORMAL STUDENT!
BUT THAT'S WHY I LOVE HIM!

HUH? YOU BROUGHT AN UMBRELLA, TOO? WHO CARES! LET'S SHARE MY UMBRELLA ANYWAY!
HUH?!
B-BUT WHAT'LL I DO? THAT MEANS THAT KARASUMA-KUN AND I WILL NEVER SHARE AN UMBRELLA!
ONE PUSH TO GET YOUR WAY, HUH?
OH, SO THAT'S IT!
NOD NOD NOD
コクコクコク!
I GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE
YOU MEAN USE ONLY ONE UMBRELLA ON PURPOSE?!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT! YOU'LL LIKE IT! I PROMISE!
K-KARASUMA-KUN! I-I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU...
WHOOSH
C-COULD YOU PLEASE GO WITH ME UNDER MY UMBRELLA?
I P-PROMISE I'LL LIKE IT! I-I MEAN, YOU'LL LIKE IT!



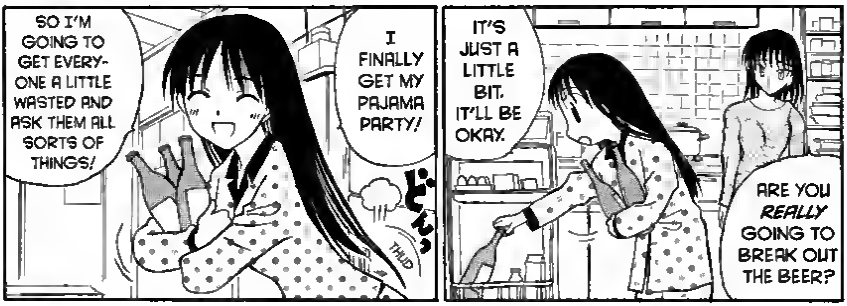
I've completely forgotten the countdown, but Karasuma-kun has only 302 days left before the transfer!!

#15.....Fin.



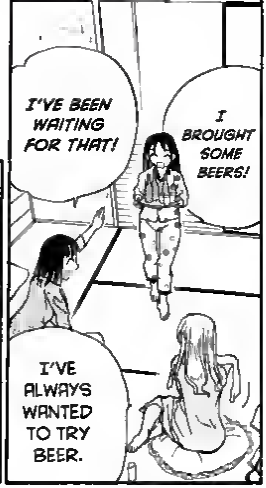
Tonight everybody's having a sleepover at Tenma's house . . .

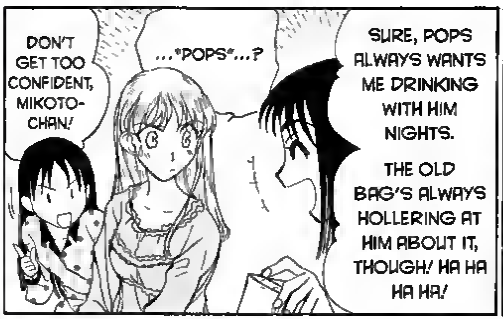
#16 WILD PARTY

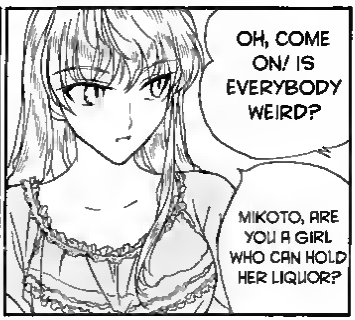

SO I'M GOING TO GET EVERY-ONE A LITTLE WASTED AND ASK THEM ALL SORTS OF THINGS!
I FINALLY GET MY PAJAMA PARTY!
どん
THUD
IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT. IT'LL BE OKAY.
ARE YOU *REALLY* GOING TO BREAK OUT THE BEER?

NONE FOR ME. I DON'T DRINK.
HERE, AKIRA-CHAN!

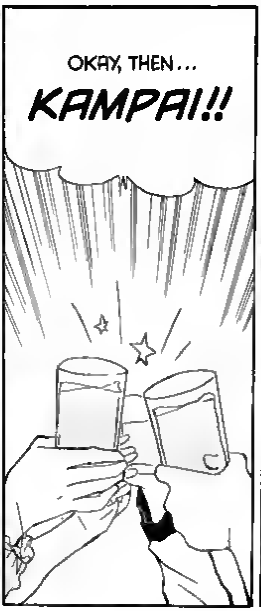
NO, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN WINE AND WHISKEY.
YOU'RE KIDDING!!


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT!
I BROUGHT SOME BEERS!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY BEER.


DON'T GET TOO CONFIDENT, MIKOTO-CHAN!
...*POPS*...?
SURE, POPS ALWAYS WANTS ME DRINKING WITH HIM NIGHTS.
THE OLD BAG'S ALWAYS HOLLERING AT HIM ABOUT IT, THOUGH! HA HA HA HA!

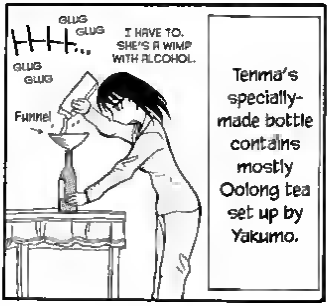

OH, COME ON! IS EVERYBODY WEIRD?
MIKOTO, ARE YOU A GIRL WHO CAN HOLD HER LIQUOR?

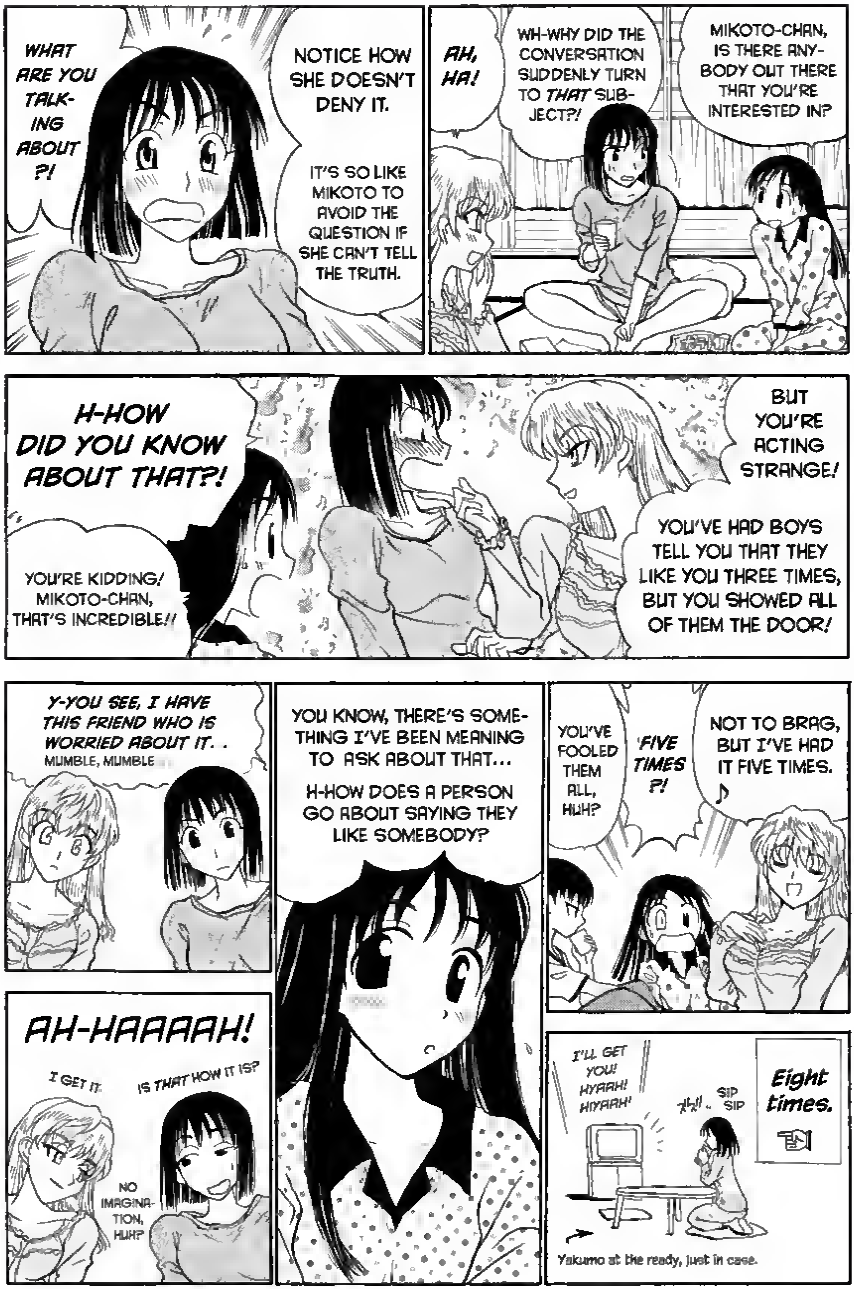
あっはっはっ!
HA HA HA


OKAY, THEN...
KAMPAI!!

WELL! YOU'RE QUITE THE DRINKER!
SEE? I HAVE A BOTTLE SET UP JUST FOR ME!
SET

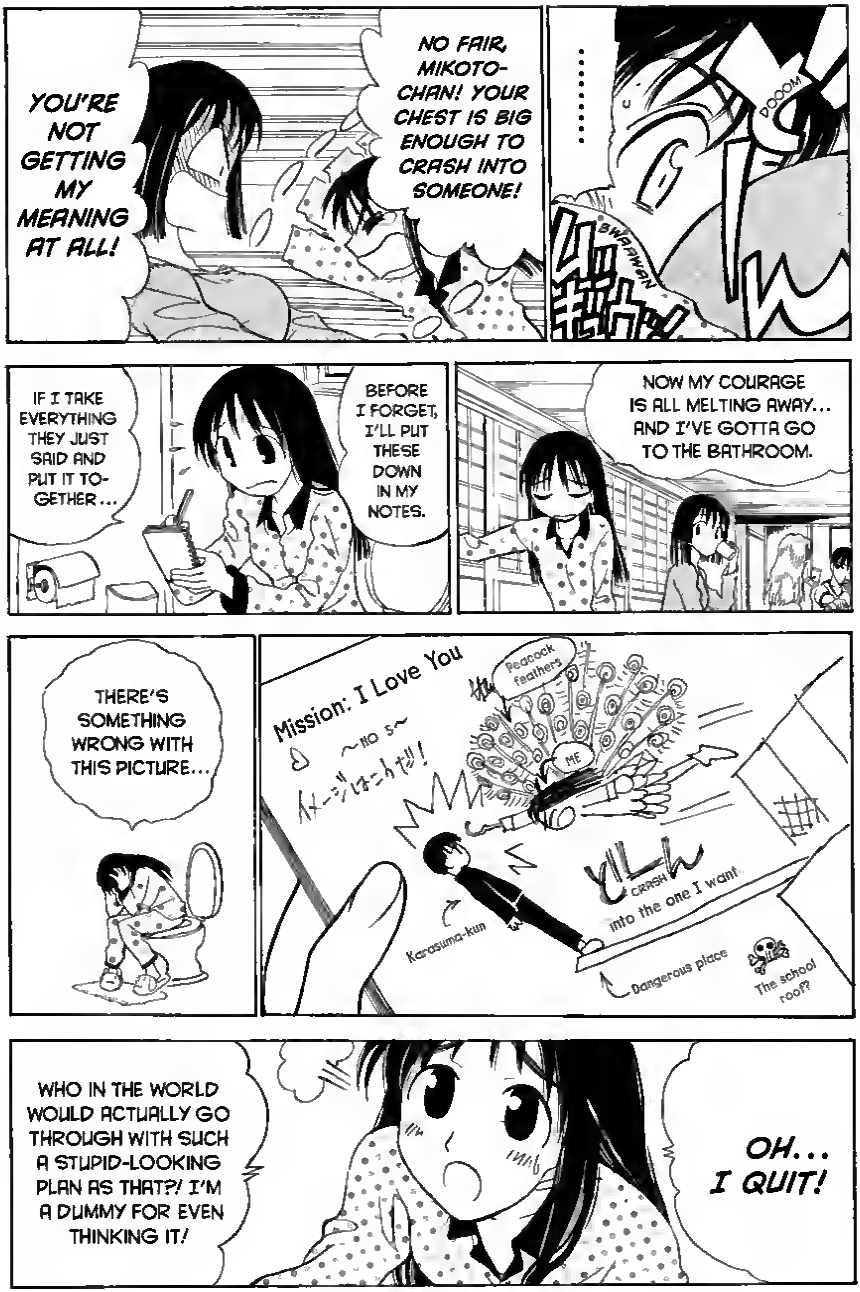
EHEM...
B-BY THE WAY...

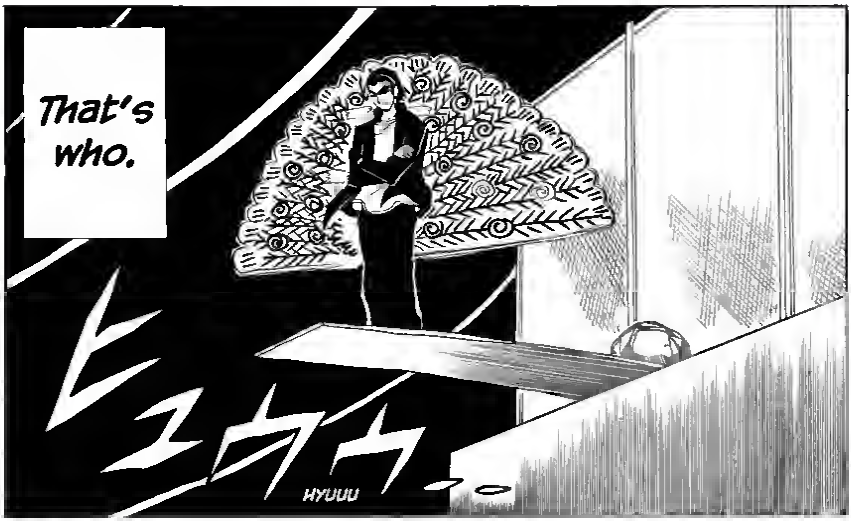

GLUG GLUG
GLUG GLUG
I HAVE TO. SHE'S A WIMP WITH ALCOHOL.
Funnel
Tenma's specially-made bottle contains mostly Oolong tea set up by Yakumo.

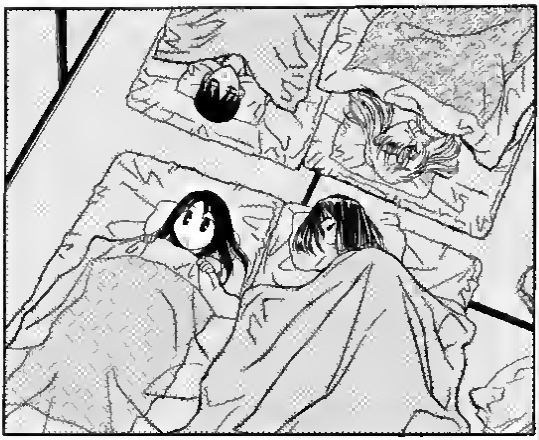

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
NOTICE HOW SHE DOESN'T DENY IT.
IT'S SO LIKE MIKOTO TO AVOID THE QUESTION IF SHE CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH.
AH, HA!
WH-WHY DID THE CONVERSATION SUDDENLY TURN TO THAT SUBJECT?!
MIKOTO-CHAN, IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE THAT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! MIKOTO-CHAN, THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!
BUT YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE!
YOU'VE HAD BOYS TELL YOU THAT THEY LIKE YOU THREE TIMES, BUT YOU SHOWED ALL OF THEM THE DOOR!
Y-YOU SEE, I HAVE THIS FRIEND WHO IS WORRIED ABOUT IT. .
MUMBLE, MUMBLE
YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK ABOUT THAT...
H-HOW DOES A PERSON GO ABOUT SAYING THEY LIKE SOMEBODY?
YOU'VE FOOLED THEM ALL, HUH?
'FIVE TIMES'?!
NOT TO BRAG, BUT I'VE HAD IT FIVE TIMES. ♪
AH-HAAAAH!
I GET IT.
IS THAT HOW IT IS?
NO IMAGINATION, HUH?
I'LL GET YOU! HYAAH! HIYAAH!
SIP SIP
Eight times.
Yakumo at the ready, just in case.

I'VE HEARD OF A METHOD CALLED THE HANGING BRIDGE EFFECT.
HUH? WH-WHAT'S THAT? IT SOUNDS INTERESTING!
H-HOW ABOUT YOU, AKIRA-CHAN?
ABOUT SAYING HOW YOU FEEL...
I DOUBT YOU'D WANT TO USE THIS METHOD, BUT...
EH?! O-OH, REALLY?
NEITHER HAVE I. AND I NEVER INTEND TO TRY EITHER.
I NEVER TRIED IT, SO I DON'T KNOW.
AHWW.
THE BRAIN MISTAKES FOR LOVE WHAT IS ACTUALLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE BEATING OF ONE'S HEART FROM FEAR.
Sees opposite sex.
Causes hallucination.
B-BMP
B-BMP
Afraid of the wobbly bridge.
"IF ONE WALKS ACROSS A HANGING BRIDGE AND SEES A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, ONE FALLS IN LOVE." OR SO THEY SAY.
IN SIMPLE TERMS, THAT'S ABOUT IT.
HMM... SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS IF A GUY IS REALLY SCARED AT THE MOMENT HE LOOKS AT YOU, HE'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU? DID I GET THAT RIGHT?
EH?! REALLY?! TELL ME! TELL ME HOW!!
IT'S SO EASY TO HAVE SOMEONE FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY DON'T COUNT ON IT IN REAL LIFE.
IS THAT REAL?
STBB STBB
HYUUUUU
Rooftop
KARASUMA-KUN... ...I LOVE YOU!!
LOOK, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FALL/ YOU'RE GONNA FALL!

ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS CLOTHES, ISN'T THERE?
DRESS YOURSELF UP! IT WORK'S FOR THE PEACOCK, DOESN'T IT?
IT'S SOMETHING EVEN ANIMALS CAN DO!
BESIDES, THAT'S THE MALE.
THAT DISPLAY IS ALSO MEANT TO THREATEN OTHERS.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE PRETTY!
CLUELESS
THAT ONLY WORK'S FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU, ERI-CHAN.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU'VE GOT ONE OF YOUR WEIRD IMAGES IN YOUR HEAD, DON'T YOU?
PEACOCK?
KARASUMA-KUN...
WHOOSH
...I LOVE YOU!
FOR HUMANKIND, IT'S ALL ABOUT HEART!
WHAT'S INSIDE!
JUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, THEN GO OUT AND CRASH RIGHT INTO THE ONE YOU WANT!!
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL, PRINCESS!
WHAT NOW, MIKOTO?
THUNK
THANK YOU! I'VE GOT COURAGE NOW!
JUST CRASH INTO THE ONE I WANT, RIGHT?
GRIMPH
Y-YOU'RE SO RIGHT, MIKOTO-CHAN!!
MOVED


YOU'RE NOT GETTING MY MEANING AT ALL!
NO FAIR, MIKOTO-CHAN! YOUR CHEST IS BIG ENOUGH TO CRASH INTO SOMEONE!
.....
DOOOM
SWAYWAY
IF I TAKE EVERYTHING THEY JUST SAID AND PUT IT TOGETHER...
BEFORE I FORGET, I'LL PUT THESE DOWN IN MY NOTES.
NOW MY COURAGE IS ALL MELTING AWAY... AND I'VE GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE...
Mission: I Love You
Peacock feathers
ME
CRASH
into the one I want
Karasuma-kun
Dangerous place
The school roof?
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH SUCH A STUPID-LOOKING PLAN AS THAT?! I'M A DUMMY FOR EVEN THINKING IT!
OH... I QUIT!


That's who.
ヒュウウ
HYUUU



IT'S A MAN'S DUTY TO ACCEPT ANY CHALLENGE AS LONG AS THERE IS EVEN A 1% CHANCE OF SUCCESS!
MAYBE I'M WRONG. I'LL BET IT ISN'T JUST A MAN'S DUTY, BUT A HUMAN BEING'S DUTY!
IF I WAIT LONG ENOUGH, MAYBE THEY'LL HOLD A "BIRDMAN" CONTEST

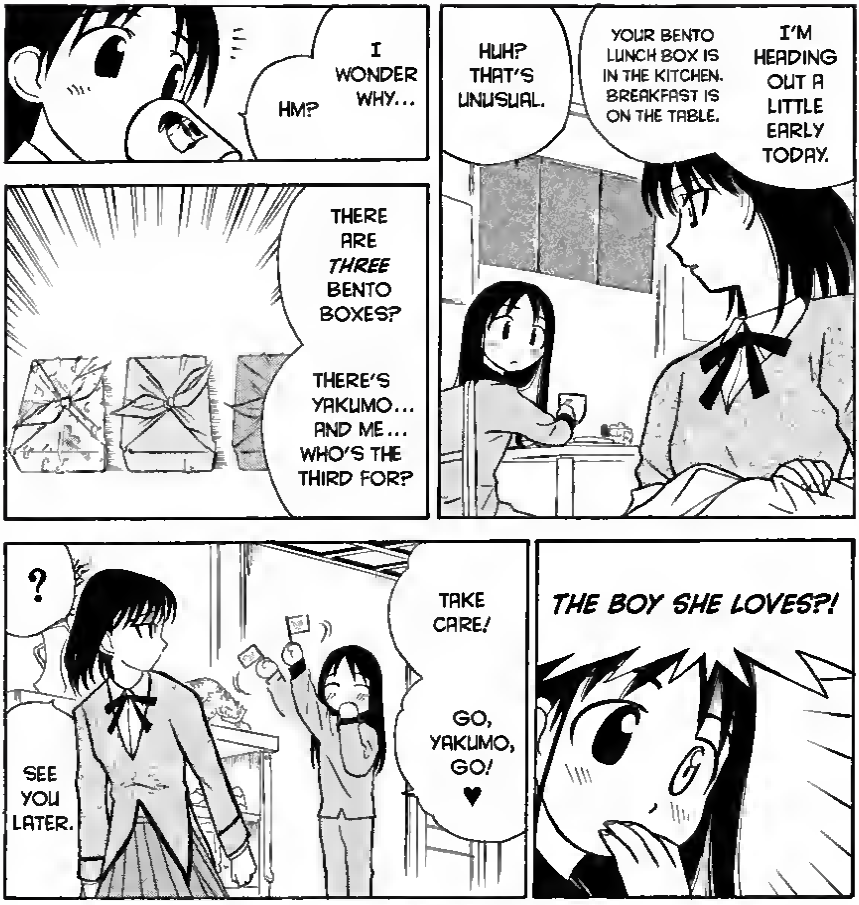
SAYING "I LOVE YOU" IS REALLY HARD.

16 . . . . . Fin.

♭01 WONDER WOMAN

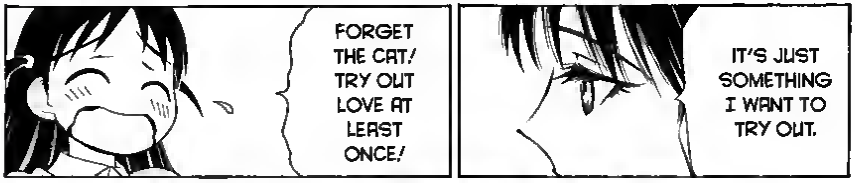
TSUKAMOTO YAKUMO
THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THIS STORY A VERY RESPONSIBLE YOUNGER SISTER WHO WAS IN THE KITCHEN FROM 6:00 A.M MAKING BREAKFAST AND FILLING THE LUNCH BOXES FOR HER SISTER AND HERSELF.

TSUKAMOTO TENMA
YAKUMO'S BIG SISTER, STILL IN HER PAJAMAS IN THE REGULAR STORY, SHE'S THE MAIN CHARACTER SHE CAN BOAST OF IMPREGNABLE DEFENSES THAT WILL PREVENT ANYONE FROM WAKING HER UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE SHE IS DOOMED TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.

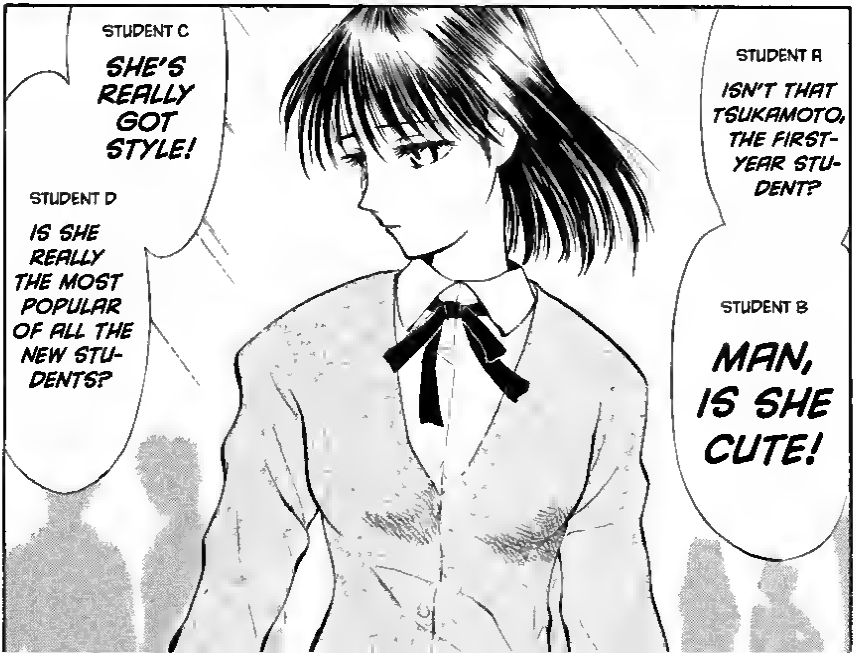

I WONDER WHY...
HM?
I'M HEADING OUT A LITTLE EARLY TODAY.
YOUR BENTO LUNCH BOX IS IN THE KITCHEN. BREAKFAST IS ON THE TABLE.
HUH? THAT'S UNUSUAL.
THERE ARE THREE BENTO BOXES?
THERE'S YAKUMO... AND ME... WHO'S THE THIRD FOR?
?
SEE YOU LATER.
TAKE CARE!
GO, YAKUMO, GO! ♥
THE BOY SHE LOVES?!
NOW I'M WORRIED!
I'LL HAVE TO TAIL HER AND FIND OUT WHO HE IS FOR MYSELF!
I HOPE NO BAD MAN IS TRYING TO TRICK HER.
BUT UNLIKE ME, SHE'S SO NAÏVE!
I'LL HAVE TO WATCH OVER HER WITH A WARM HEART.
SO NOW YAKUMO IS IN LOVE...

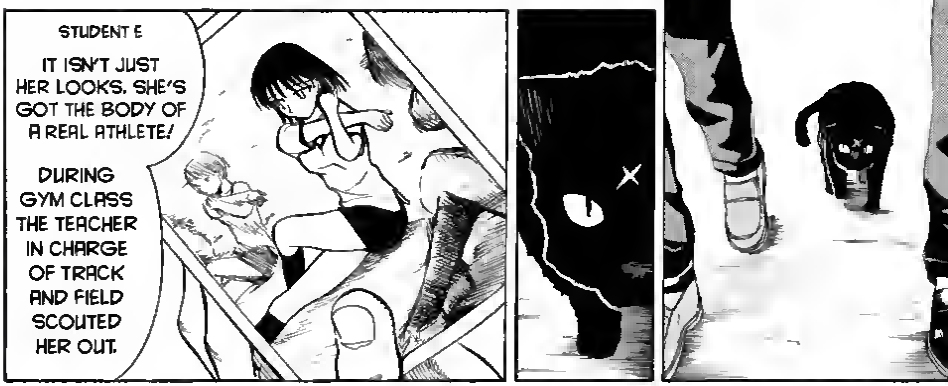
Yagami Shrine...
A BENTO LUNCH BOX FOR A CAT?!
NEE-CHAN...
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DIS-APPOINT ME!
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU HAD CAUGHT THE BUG!
BUG?
NO, A CAT.
SO... A STRAY CAT, HUH?
HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING AFTER IT LONG?
YEAH, BUT...
AH!
VWIP

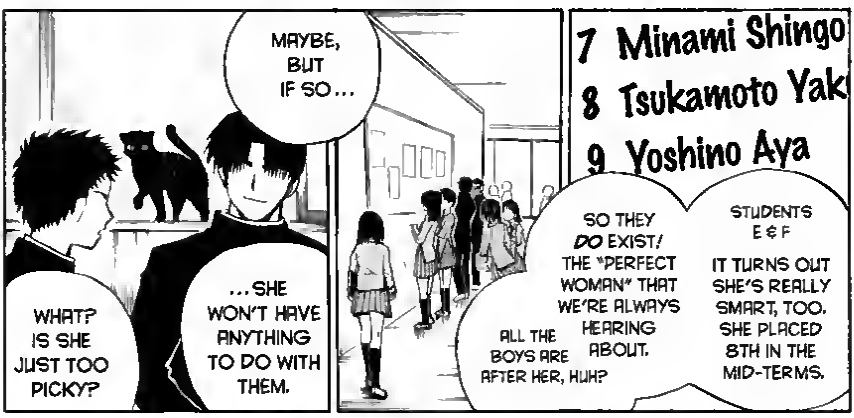
HONESTLY, YAKUMO! WHAT DO YOU DO THIS FOR?!
I'LL LEAVE YOUR BENTO FOR YOU HERE.
IT'S JUST BEING CAUTIOUS.
DUMB CAT, TRYING TO ACT COOL!
IT WASN'T NICE TO YOU AT ALL!
IT JUST IGNORED YOU AND WENT AWAY!

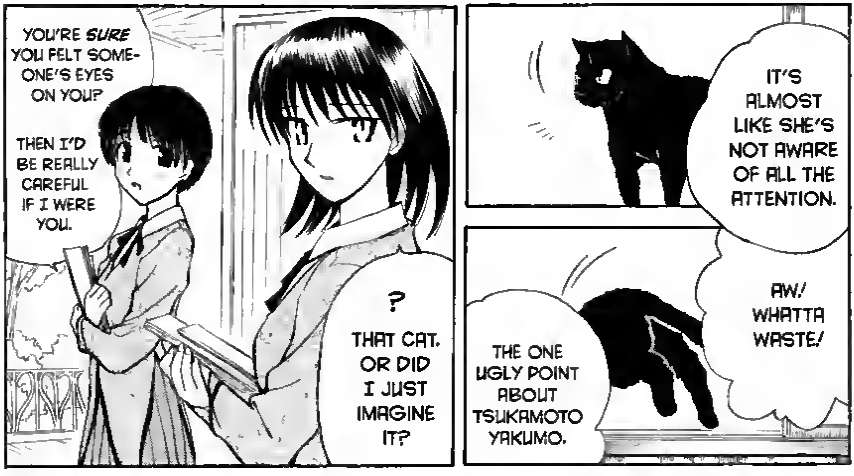

FORGET THE CAT! TRY OUT LOVE AT LEAST ONCE!
IT'S JUST SOMETHING I WANT TO TRY OUT.

AH! WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE! LET'S GET TO SCHOOL, YAKUMO!


STUDENT C
SHE'S REALLY GOT STYLE!
STUDENT A
ISN'T THAT TSUKAMOTO, THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENT?
STUDENT D
IS SHE REALLY THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL THE NEW STUDENTS?
STUDENT B
MAN, IS SHE CUTE!


STUDENT E
IT ISN'T JUST HER LOOKS. SHE'S GOT THE BODY OF A REAL ATHLETE!
DURING GYM CLASS THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF TRACK AND FIELD SCOUTED HER OUT.


MAYBE, BUT IF SO...
...SHE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM.
WHAT? IS SHE JUST TOO PICKY?
7 Minami Shingo
8 Tsukamoto Yak
9 Yoshino Aya
ALL THE BOYS ARE AFTER HER, HUH?
SO THEY DO EXIST! THE "PERFECT WOMAN" THAT WE'RE ALWAYS HEARING ABOUT.
STUDENTS E & F
IT TURNS OUT SHE'S REALLY SMART, TOO. SHE PLACED 8TH IN THE MID-TERMS.


YOU'RE SURE YOU FELT SOMEONE'S EYES ON YOU?
THEN I'D BE REALLY CAREFUL IF I WERE YOU.
?
THAT CAT. OR DID I JUST IMAGINE IT?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE'S NOT AWARE OF ALL THE ATTENTION.
AW! WHATTA WASTE!
THE ONE UGLY POINT ABOUT TSUKAMOTO YAKUMO.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE CAT RETURNS TO PAY BACK A KINDNESS?
THOSE THINGS DON'T HAPPEN IN THE REAL WORLD!
NO, A CAT...
OH, COME ON! THAT'S TOO MUCH LIKE A FAIRY-TALE!
1-D
COME ON! YOU'LL BE LATE!
THEY DON'T... YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY DON'T, HUH?
...Tsukamoto Yakumo was a little different than usual.
That entire day...
HERE.
!
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
AH!
"In what way," you ask?
PLINK

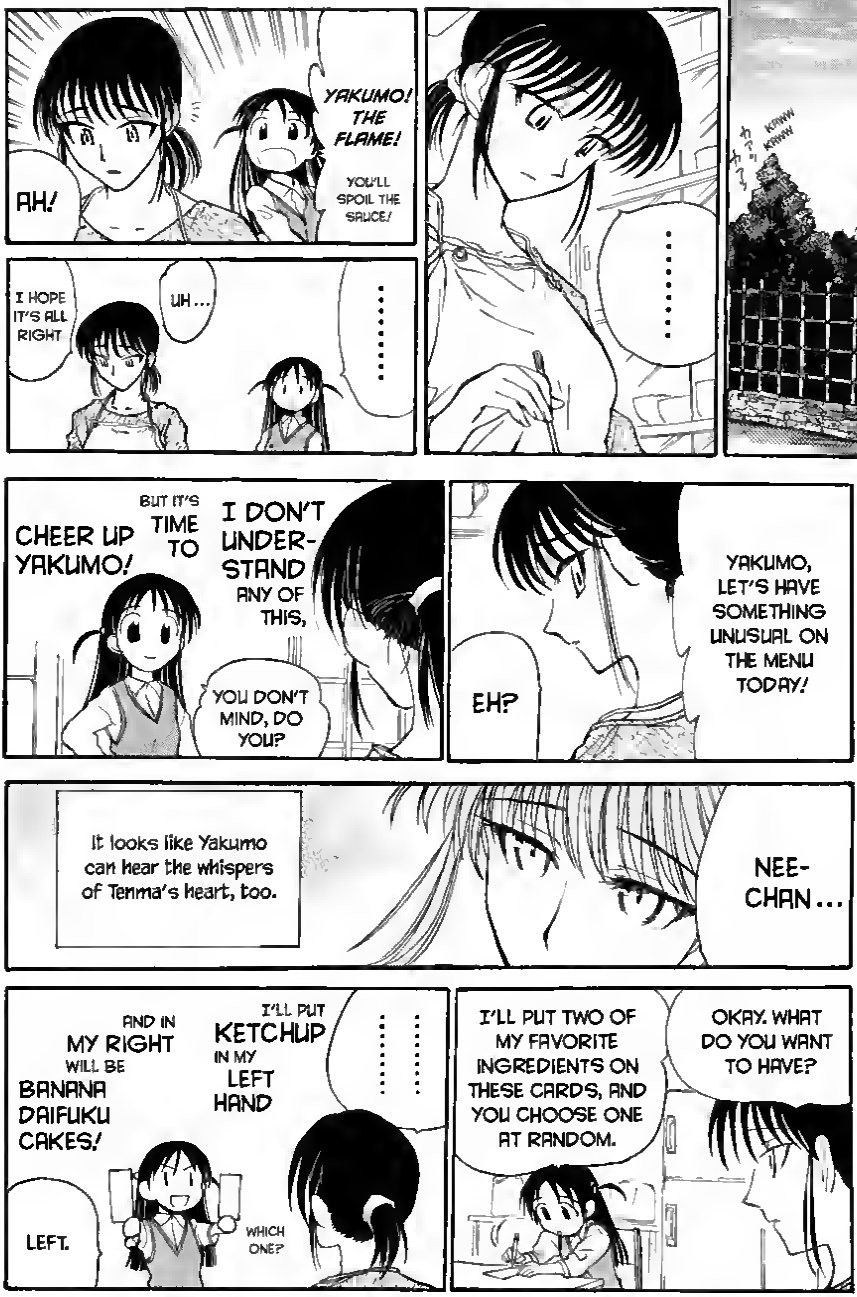
THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!
OHHH! I WAS ABLE TO TOUCH TSUKAMOTO!
If anyone likes Yakumo, she can hear the whisper of his heart.
But to a girl as hopeless at love as Yakumo is, it doesn't help at all.
THANK YOU.
She understands the sentiment, but she has no idea how to respond.
YES!
MAYBE I ACTUALLY MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION!

TSUKAMOTO-SAN, RIGHT?
After school...
I'VE NOTICED WHAT A HARD WORKER YOU ARE!
I WAS HOPING YOU'D JOIN US ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL!
EH? I, UM...
GOOD LIE!
EH HEH HEH!
SHE LOOKS SO GROWN UP, TOO!
NOW... I'M GONNA TAKE HER ALL THE WAY!
キラーン GLEEM
UH... YEAH, I...
WE'LL BE ALONE IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM,
BATHED IN THE LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN!
IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE SCHOOL!
I JUST KNOW YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, DON'T YOU?!
THE FIRST STEP IS TO COME TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM AND HAVE A QUICK LOOK AROUND. LET'S GO!
BUT... I'M EXPECTED HOME RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL...
STOP THAT RIGHT NOW! YOU'RE SCARING THE POOR GIRL!
OWWW!!

I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT!
TSUKAMOTO-KUN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN AIKIDO?
SHUMP
MY NAME IS HANAI HARUKI.
I'M THE AIKIDO CLUB PRESIDENT!
AND I'M IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOUR SISTER, TSUKAMOTO TENMA.
OH, IT'S HANAI-KUN.
SHFF SHFF
I THINK IT REALLY WOULD SUIT YOU!
I THINK A MARTIAL ARTS HAKAMA WOULD SUIT YOU FINE!
I—
I...
This is a man whose words and thoughts match nearly perfectly. Yakumo has never met such a man before.

But that doesn't mean that she's in *love* or anything!
ガァン!
VWRM
I'M SORRY, BUT MARTIAL ARTS AREN'T FOR ME...
I'LL GRAB HER RIGHT ARM.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF I...
SGT
THE PROTECTIVE ARTS ARE VERY EFFECTIVE AGAINST LEWD ATTACKERS!
I'LL GRAB HER LEFT ARM.
OKAY, THEN...
WHOOSH
SWIPP
?
YOU WERE ABLE TO AVOID ME?
SWIPP
SMASH
WHAT'S GOING ON?! I CAN'T TOUCH HER AT ALL!
SWIPP
SWIPP

It's easy for her to avoid him, since she can read his mind.
ZWAAA
AH!
WHAMM
HOW CAN YOU BE SO FAST WHEN YOUR SISTER IS SUCH A FRIGGIN' DOLT?!
!
When she hears her sister being bad-mouthed, Yakumo finally gets serious.
I- I'M SORRY...


AH!
YAKUMO! THE FLAME!
YOU'LL SPOIL THE SAUCE!
I HOPE IT'S ALL RIGHT
UH...
KRWN KRWN
CHEER UP YAKUMO!
BUT IT'S TIME TO
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY OF THIS,
YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?
EH?
YAKUMO, LET'S HAVE SOMETHING UNUSUAL ON THE MENU TODAY!
It looks like Yakumo can hear the whispers of Tenma's heart, too.
NEE-CHAN...
LEFT.
AND IN MY RIGHT WILL BE BANANA DAIFUKU CAKES!
I'LL PUT KETCHUP IN MY LEFT HAND
WHICH ONE?
I'LL PUT TWO OF MY FAVORITE INGREDIENTS ON THESE CARDS, AND YOU CHOOSE ONE AT RANDOM.
OKAY. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAVE?

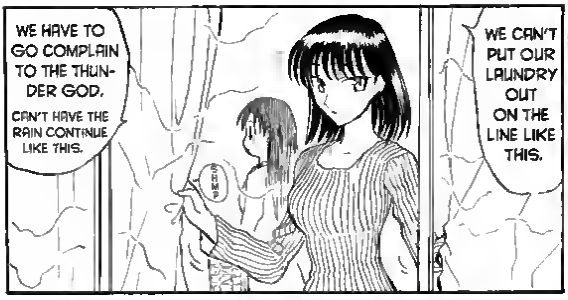
To Yakumo, her sister has no faults.
NEE-CHAN... YOU MADE A MISTAKE.
ABOUT WHICH HAND HELD WHAT CARD...
A HUGE SWEETS-AHOLIC.
Banana Daifuku Cakes
NO I DIDN'T!
Banana Daifuku Cakes.
...the one who loves her big sister the best.
At least right now
NOW THAT'S AN ODD SMELL
AH!
GUCK GUCK
In the end, Tsukamoto Yakumo is...
OH! IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOU PUT INTO YOUR COOKING.
I HAVE NO CHOICE. I'LL HAVE TO ADD THEM...
...TO THE CURRY.
Tenma does chores.
PLOOMP PLOOMP
YOU THINK SO? I THINK IT ISN'T HALF BAD.
THEN...
TASTES AWFUL...
ARE YOU HERE?
HERE'S DINNER.

YOU CAN'T GET DOWN, RIGHT?
COME TO ME!
MYAAOW!
MYAAOW!
UP IN THE TREE?
ZLIPP
SLOWLY... TAKE YOUR TIME...
THAT'S IT...
WHOOSH

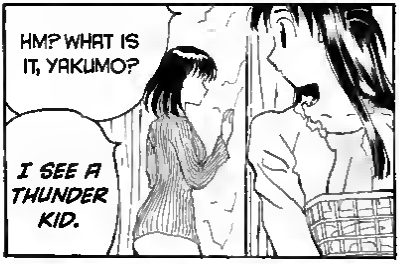
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OWW...
.....
ZU
GRUMP
AH!
I HEARD!
MYAOW!
MEOWW.
LICK LICK
YOU KNOW, I CAN READ PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS SOMETIMES.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU'D SAY IN YOUR HEART, SO I WAS HOPING I'D HEAR YOU TOO
BUT I GUESS IN A CAT'S HEART, YOU GUYS JUST SAY MEOW, MEOW, HUH?
TOO BAD.

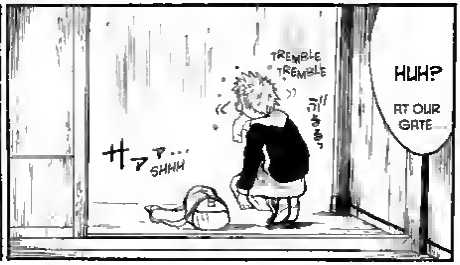
♭01 . . . . . Fin.

♭02 RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS

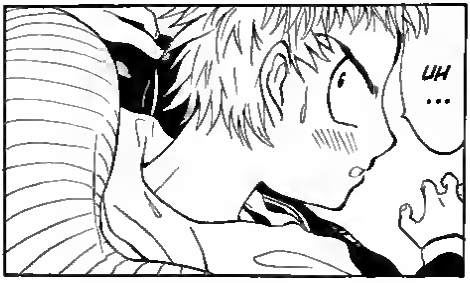

WE HAVE TO GO COMPLAIN TO THE THUNDER GOD.
CAN'T HAVE THE RAIN CONTINUE LIKE THIS.
SHHH
WE CAN'T PUT OUR LAUNDRY OUT ON THE LINE LIKE THIS.

SHHHH
WELL?
NO LUCK. IT ISN'T GOING TO STOP.


HM? WHAT IS IT, YAKUMO?
I SEE A THUNDER KID.

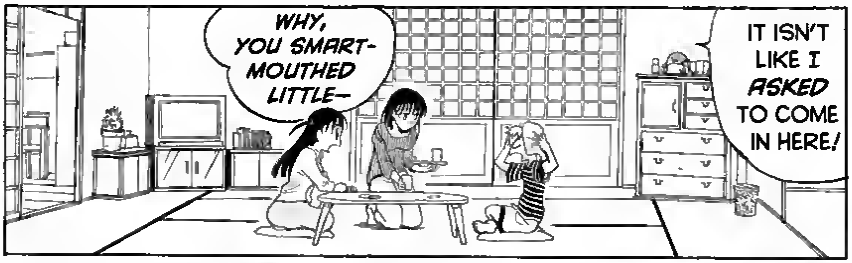

TREMBLE TREMBLE
SHHH
HUH?
AT OUR GATE

YOU'LL ... CATCH COLD.


UH ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE RAIN GOT YOU PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
SST
TWITCH
EH?! AH! NO!
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG! I JUST GOT HERE BY ACCIDENT!

AND YOU WON'T EVEN TELL US YOUR NAME?
I GIVE UP!
GOSH
GOSH
HUMPH
YOU DIDN'T BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES?
YOU'RE A RUN-AWAY?

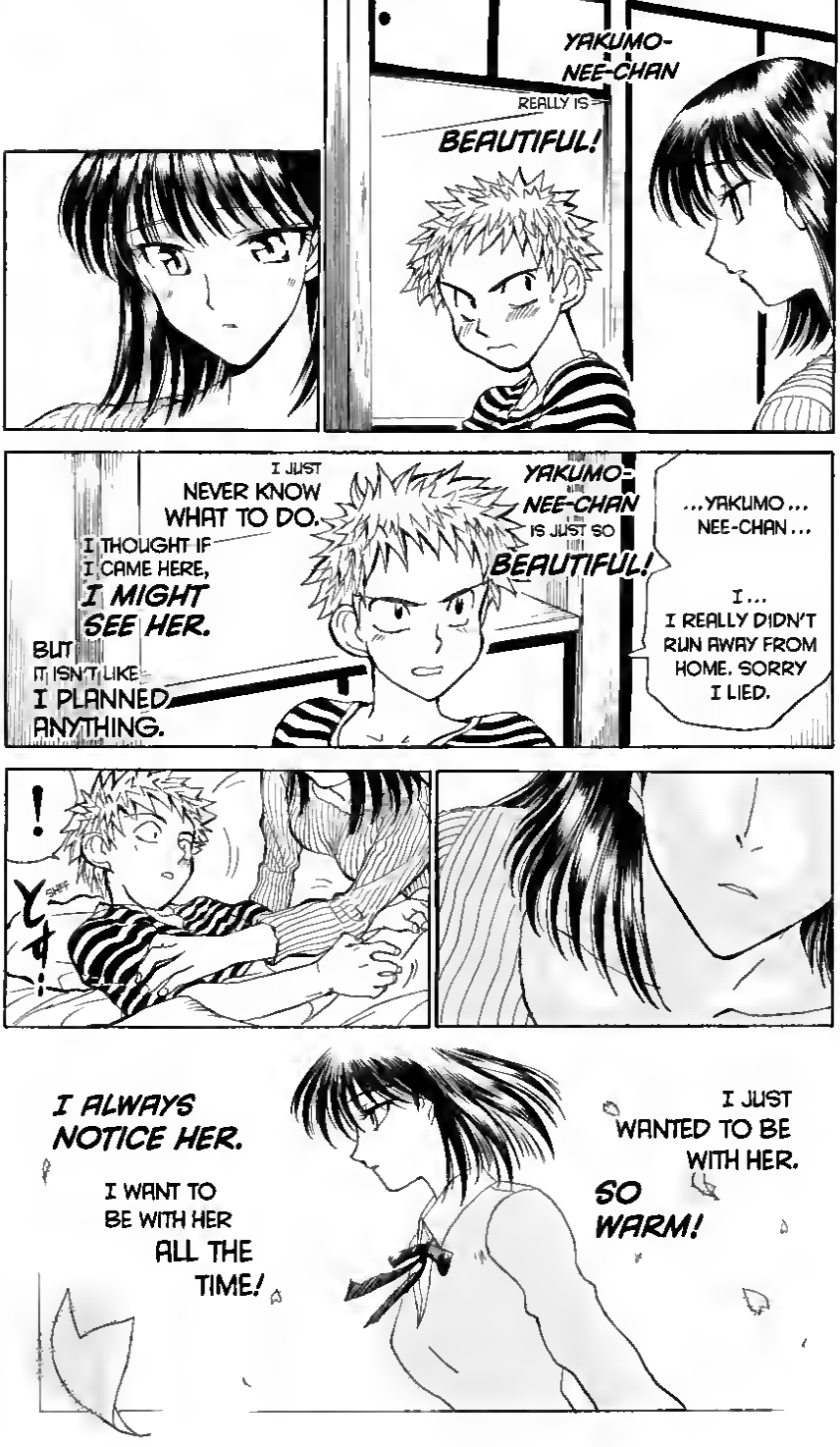

WHY, YOU SMART-MOUTHED LITTLE—
IT ISN'T LIKE I ASKED TO COME IN HERE!

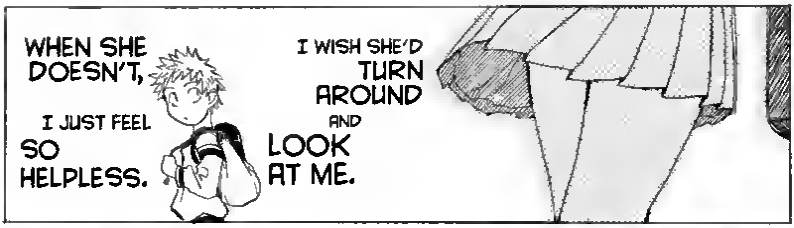
I THINK THAT BOY WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
A LITTLE BRAT FROM WHO-KNOWS-WHERE? THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU TEND TO SPOIL KIDS/
IT'S RAINING PRETTY HEAVILY. WE SHOULD LET HIM STAY FOR THE NIGHT.
WHA— YAKUMO?!

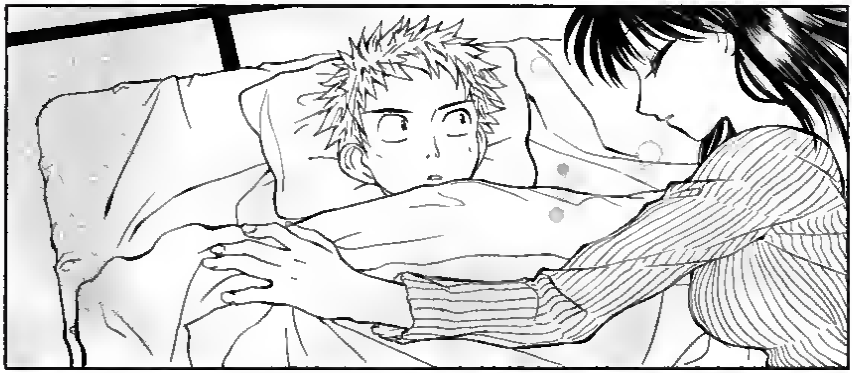
I FEEL SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN HIM...
...THAN WHAT I FEEL FROM THE OTHER BOYS...
AT LEAST I THINK I DO.
THAT BOY SEEMS A LOT LIKE YOU.
IORI...
PRRR...
RLLL RLL
THANKS. I'LL GET DINNER STARTED.
WELL, IF YOU'RE SURE, THEN I SUPPOSE WE HAVE TO.

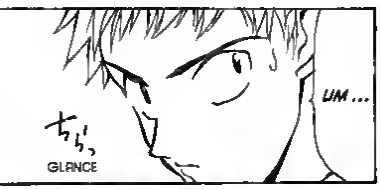
EH?
SECONDS!
YAKUMO IS THE LITTLE SISTER!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE! YOUR BIG SISTER'S GOT SOME SKILLS AT COOKING.
HOW DO I KNOW?
THAT YOU AREN'T LYING?
TAKE TIME TO TASTE IT. THE GUYS AT SCHOOL WOULD CRY TEARS OF JOY IF THEY COULD GET A TASTE OF YAKUMO'S COOKING
MUNCH MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
もしゃもしゃ
GOBBLE GOBBLE
ガツガツ
UM... NEE-CHAN...
MAYBE YAKUMO HAS A BIGGER BUST SIZE, BUT MY FRIEND'S BUST SIZE IS BIGGER STILL!
AND IF SHE HEARD YOU, SHE'D BE SHOCKED!
WHA—?!
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT BRATS IN THE HOUSE! THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DELICACY OF WOMEN!
HUH?! YOU MEAN MISS FLAT-CHESTED HERE IS THE OLDER SISTER?!
YOU'RE LYIN'! YOU'RE STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
SHOGI!
OTHELLO!!
OLD MAID!!
WHEN A PERVERTED BRAT SHOWS AN INTEREST IN YAKUMO'S CHEST, I BRING THE PUNISHMENT!
WHAT?!
I CHALLENGE YOU TO A GAME!
GREAT! I ACCEPT!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I GET GOOD GRADES!
Getting into it a little
MASTER, IF YOU PLEASE...
すいっ
ZIP
IT ISN'T OVER YET! I STILL HAVE MY FINAL MOVE!!
YOU'RE REALLY BAD!?
THAT THING ABOUT YOU BEING A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WAS A LIE, RIGHT?
I WON EVERY GAME.

THE GAME OF GO.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY!!
THAT TAUGHT YOU YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
FLIP FLIP
ばた ばた
SST
!
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
ちら…
GLANCE
N-NOTHING'S WRONG.
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
……
WHAT'S WRONG?
B-BMP
?

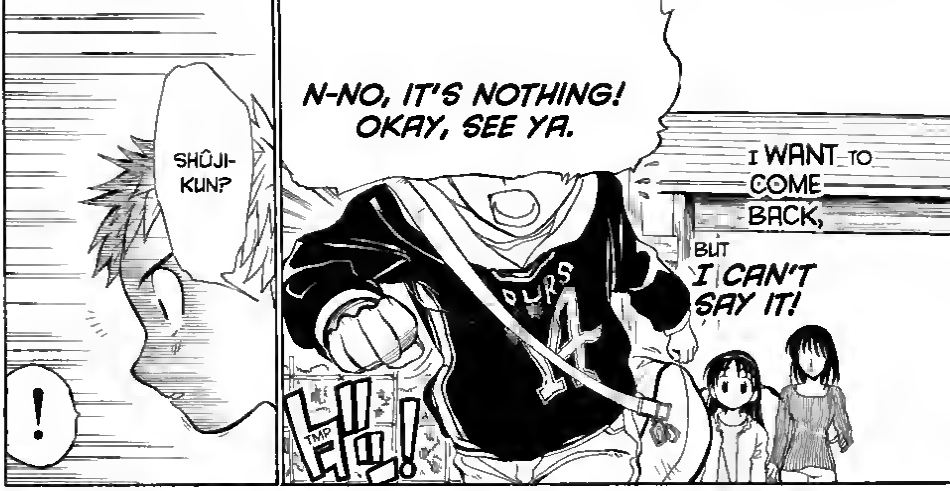

YAKUMO-NEE-CHAN
REALLY IS
BEAUTIFUL!
I JUST NEVER KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I THOUGHT IF I CAME HERE, I MIGHT SEE HER.
BUT IT ISN'T LIKE I PLANNED ANYTHING.
YAKUMO-NEE-CHAN IS JUST SO BEAUTIFUL!
...YAKUMO... NEE-CHAN...
I... I REALLY DIDN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME. SORRY I LIED.
!
I ALWAYS NOTICE HER.
I WANT TO BE WITH HER ALL THE TIME!
I JUST WANTED TO BE WITH HER.
SO WARM!

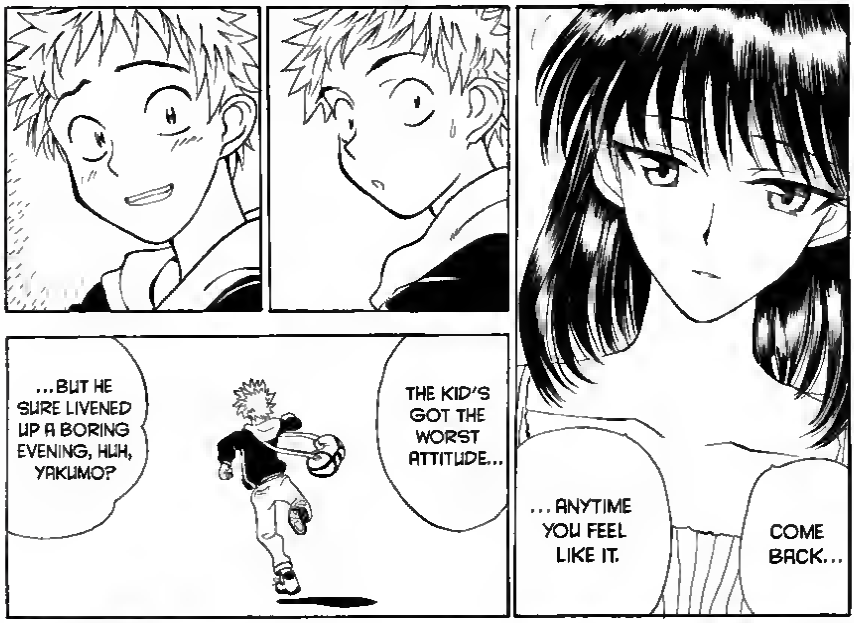

WHEN SHE DOESN'T,
I JUST FEEL SO HELPLESS.
I WISH SHE'D TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT ME.

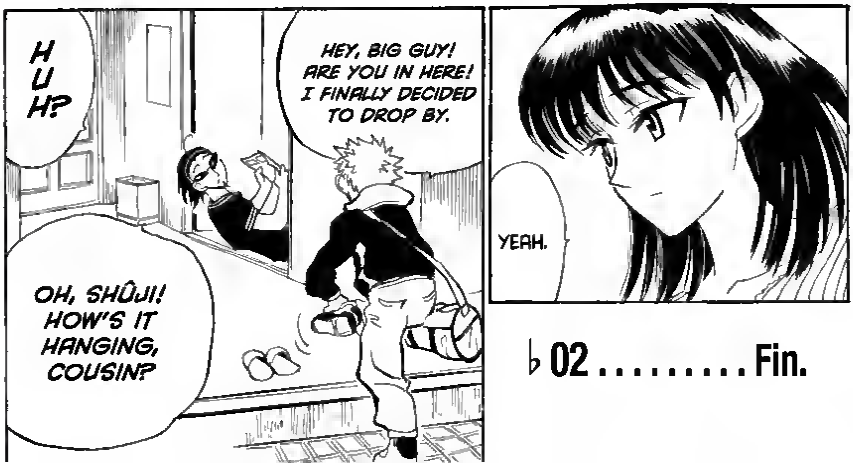



UM...
GLANCE

YOU CALL THAT TAKING CARE OF A GUY?
DON'T FORGET OUR KICKBACK FOR FEEDING YOU AND PUTTING YOU UP FOR THE NIGHT.



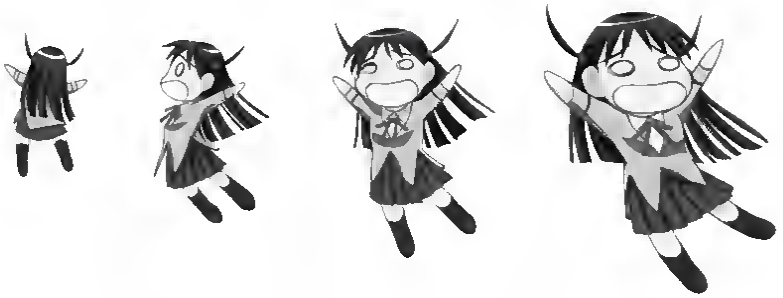




To be continued in Volume 2

♭02.....Fin.

About the Creator



Jin Kobayashi was born in Tokyo. *School Rumble* is his first manga series. He has answered these questions from his fans.

What is your hobby?
Basketball

Which manga inspired you to become a creator?
Dragon Ball

Which character in your manga do you like best?
Kenji Harima

What type of manga do you want to create in the future?
Action

Name one book, piece of music, or movie you like.
The Indiana Jones series

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Family or Personal Names

Most students in a Japanese classroom are identified by their family names, for example, Karasuma-kun. Even a close friend may use the last name, such as when Mikoto addresses Tenma, but you'll find that most people in a friendly relationship will use personal names.

Page 5, Second-Year High School Student

Japanese high schools are arranged a little differently than most American high schools. Grade school is grades 1–6; middle school is grades 7–9; and high school is grades 10–12. Since Tenma is in her second year of high school, she is the same age as juniors in American high schools.

Page 5, New School Year

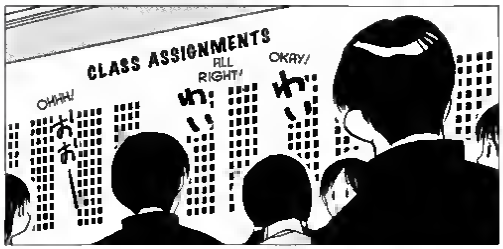
Unlike American schools, which typically start the academic year in August or September, the Japanese school year begins in early April.

Page 6, How to Pronounce *Tsukamoto*

Many language teachers will tell you that in Japanese every syllable is pronounced. That is not entirely true; some vowel sounds nearly vanish. In the *tsu* sound of *Tsukamoto*, the *u* sound is hardly heard, so to sound more accurate, one should pronounce the name as if there were no *u* sound: Tskamoto.

Page 6, Ôji

Just a little Jin Kobayashi pun. Using different kanji, the pronunciation of Karasuma-kun's personal name, *Ôji*, also means prince.



Page 6, New Class Assignments

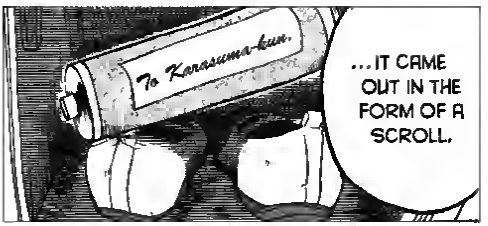
Every new class year, homeroom assignments are posted on the school bulletin board, as is the case in American schools, but in Japan the stakes are higher. In Japanese schools, the students typically stay in the same room and the teachers move from class to class, so the students who are in your homeroom are the students you will see all day, every day, for nearly every class for the rest of the year.

Pages 11 and 12, Can't Write

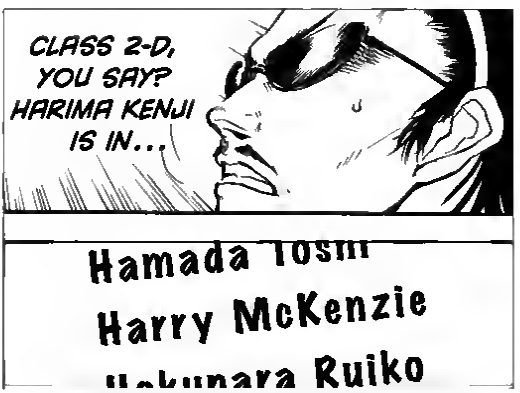
In Japan, admitting that you love a person (*kokuhaku*) is almost a formalized ritual. One can leave a love letter in the shoe locker (see note), or just come out and say it. In Japanese one of the ways of saying it is, *"Watashi wa, anata ga suki desu."* Or simply, *"Suki desu."* The

usual word for love/like/having a crush is *suki*. There are other words, of course, but this is the one Tenma cannot seem to say. The Japanese words that came out of her pen were: *sukii*, to go skiing; *sukippu*, skipping; *sukiyaki*, a kind of food; *suki ga nai*, to have good defenses; *sukiru-appu*, to improve your skills; and *sukinshippu*, skinship, or building a parental relationship with an infant through touch. The translation tried to take the first two letters of the word *love* and match the Japanese meanings as closely as possible. Still, as in the original, the words get further and further away from the one Tenma wants to write.

Page 13, Love Letters in the Shoe Locker

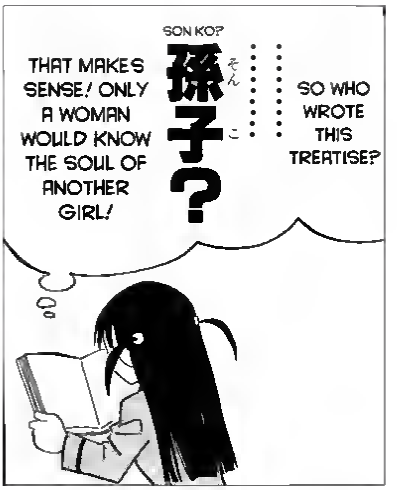


Leaving a love letter in a student's shoe locker is a longtime tradition in stories about school-age love (and probably has plenty of precedent in reality, but most likely not to the extent you find in romances). The shoe locker is one of the places where a student in love can be sure that the object of his or her affection will go at the start and end of each school day, so it is a favorite place to leave notes and especially love letters.



Page 20, Harry McKenzie

The Japanese pronunciation of the name Harry McKenzie sounds almost exactly the same as the name Harima Kenji



Page 34, Sonko

The second kanji in Sun Tsu's name is also pronounced *ko* by the Japanese, and that same character can be found in many popular girls names such as Junko, Kyoko, Keiko, Yûko, Tomoko, etc. In fact, in post-war Japan it was the fashion to name female children with a name ending in *ko*. (This fashion has changed in the past ten to twenty years.) So when Tenma looks at the kanji for the name Sun Tsu (usually pronounced *Sonshi*, in Japan), she automatically thinks the book was written by Sonko, a woman.

Page 36, Take Off Like a Hare

In Japanese this appeared as the kanji compound (two or more kanji put together to form a single word) *datto*, made up of the kanji for *undress* and *rabbit*. Since *datto* is not a very commonly used word in Japan, it wouldn't be unusual for a junior in high school to be unfamiliar with it. Note: Sun Tsu does talk about running away like a rabbit, under certain circumstances.

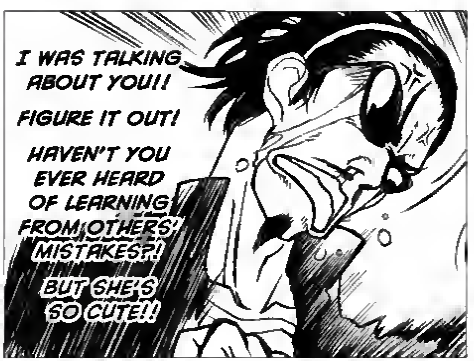
Page 37, Beloved

The kanji that Tenma wanted Karasuma-kun to read for her was one that is pronounced *suki*, a homophone for the Japanese word for love, but this kanji means an opening in one's defenses. She wants to hear him say "I love you" to her, even if it's a trick. Since there are no good homophones for love that can be found in Sun Tsu's *Art of War*, I chose to make it a pronunciation of *beloved*, which is found in a section of *The Art of War* that advised generals to treat their soldiers like their own beloved children in order to foster loyalty.

Fortunately, *beloved* also sounds like an endearment an old-school boyfriend might use.

Page 38, Honey Extractor

There's another word pronounced the same as *love* in Japanese (*suki*) that means plow. So in the same vein, my mission was to find a word that would be an endearment (*honey*) but that would also have something to do with a tool that might be found on a farm.



Page 43, Learn from Others' Mistakes

The old Japanese proverb that Kenji used is one that translates to, "Instead of accusing others of bad behavior, learn from it and behave well yourself."

Page 45, Shampoos in the Morning

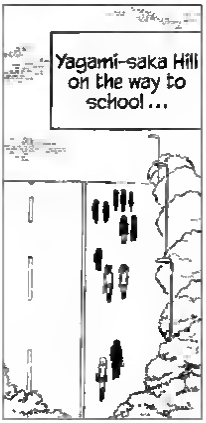
Most baths in Japanese households are taken at night. But there is a group of people who wash their hair in the morning, and these are given the name of *asashanha*.

Page 52, Wrote the Kanji Wrong

The left side of the final kanji character is incorrect. Tennôji wrote it with a radical indicating *man* rather than with the proper radical, which means left side.

Page 62, Mama-chari

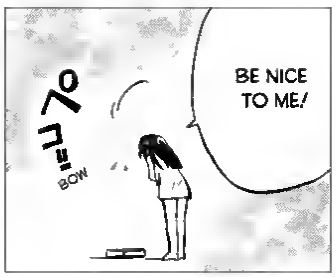
These are what used to be called women's bicycles in the U.S. One-speed, or three-speed at best, a distinctive basket, and a traditional low-bar frame make up the standard bike ridden by housewives all over Japan. The name, *mama-chari*, comes from *mama* (mother) and the onomatopoeic sound of a bicycle bell, *charin charin*.



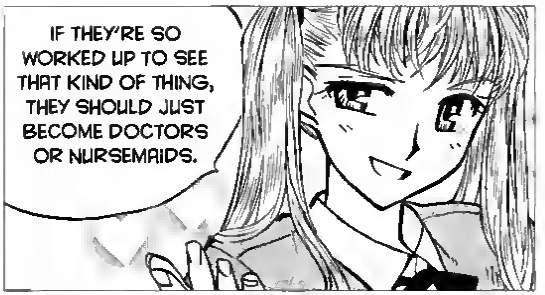
Page 63, Yagami-saka/Shisshin-saka

The kanji for arrow, *ya*, differs from the kanji for loss, *shitsu*, only by the elevation of the top horizontal line, so they are easily mistaken for each other. The author is giving the audience a clue that half-British Eri is still having a few problems with her kanji.

Page 76, Measurements Check



A measurements check or physical checkup (*shintai-sokutei*) is conducted at the beginning of the school year to record the physical condition of each student. Height, weight, sitting height, and chest circumference are some of things that may be checked. These checks are started in the first grade and data is kept until the twelfth grade. Many schools also have monthly checkups for height and weight only, administered by the teachers.



Page 78, Nursemaids

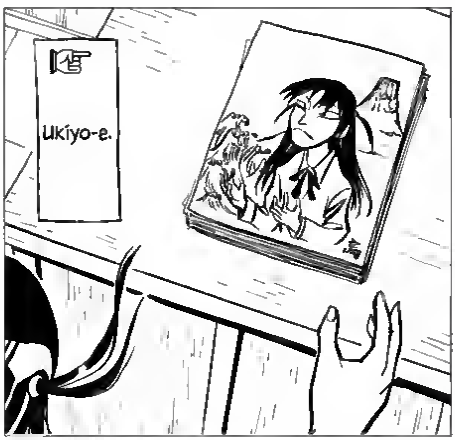
The Japanese word that Eri said was *kangofu*, the most common Japanese word for nurse. But since the *fu* part means woman or wife, and there is an ever-increasing number of male nurses, a more politically correct word has come along, *kangoshi*, which does not specify gender.

Page 82, What in the World Is Gunpura?

Here's the answer to Mikoto's question. The *pura* part is a shortening of *purasuchikku*, which means plastic and refers to plastic models. *Gun* is short for Gundam (from the famous giant-robot TV franchise, "Mobile Suit Gundam"). So Akira's hobby is putting together the complex, high-quality, snap-together Gundam plastic model kits that are so popular in Japan.

Page 90, Ukiyo-e

Floating World drawings are generally found in intricate wood-block prints that were created starting late in the Edo Period (1603–1867) of Japan. They include stylized, impressionistic pictures based on Kabuki plays and the pleasure districts of Japan's largest cities such as Edo (Tokyo) and Kyoto.



Page 93, Buns

One of the quick snacks in Japan is prepackaged buns that the Japanese call by the same word they use for bread, *pan*. They are usually purchased in bakeries and grocery stores, but prepackaged *pan* can also be found in vending machines and other convenient locations. Most contain fillings such as curry, barbecued pork, sweet bean paste, and other varieties. Like chips or candy bars from vending machines in America, *pan* is an inexpensive snack that quite often substitutes for a meal.

I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN EVEN WHEN THE PLOT IS WRITTEN BY AN A-LIST SCREENWRITER!
SOMEONE LIKE UCHIDATE MAKIKO!

Page 100, Uchidate Makiko

Uchidate Makiko is a prolific female writer of books and movies most famous for her TV dramas—eleven-episode stories, usually romantic, featuring plots that have twists and turns and, as with most television, aren't too challenging to the average viewer. (There are exceptional dramas out there, of course.)

Page 103, Hurricane Kick

In this case, Hurricane is spelled Hariken, and it's made up of two kanji, one being the first character in Harima's name and the second meaning fist.

Page 109 Three to Get Killed!

Sanbiki ga Kiru! (Three for the Kill!) is an immensely popular *jidai-geki* (Warring States or Edo Period drama) that starred the handsome Yakusho Kôji as the swordsman Sengoku. Sengoku's two companions are Tono-sama and Tako (*tono* means lord, and *tako* can mean octopus). In *School Rumble*, Tenma's favorite *jidai-geki*, *Sanbiki ga Kirareru!* (Three to Get Killed!), stars the handsome Yakushamaru Kôji (*yakusha* means actor) as the swordsman Mangoku (*sen* means 1,000, and *man* means 10,000). Mangoku's two companions are Ue-sama and Ika (*ue* means above, and *ika* can mean both below and eel).

Page 111, Boss Coffee

With its stylish jet-black can emblazoned with the image of an authoritative-looking man smoking a pipe and the name Boss in big, bold letters, there's no doubt that Suntory's Boss canned coffee is aimed at a male demographic.

Page 117, Picky Sticks

The Picky Sticks in Tenma's world are the Picky Sticks in ours. A favorite snack in Japan, and the almost-official Japanese snack food of otaku everywhere. They are thin, crunchy sticks of sweet bread covered in chocolate or other flavors.

Page 118, Old Maid

The game Karasuma and Harima are playing, *Babanuki* (which literally translates to Pulling Out Grandma), is basically Old Maid. Players take turns selecting a card from their opponent's hand, trying to make pairs and hoping not to choose the single joker in the deck. The loser is the person who winds up with the joker at the end of the game.

Page 123, Torimaru

The kanji for *Karasu* (raven or crow) differs from the kanji for *tori* (bird) by only one line. And the kanji for *ma* in Karasuma-kun's name is usually read *maru*. So thinking Karasuma-kun's name is Torimaru would be an easy mistake to make, especially for someone who doesn't pay much attention in kanji class.

Page 124, The Rainy Season and Romance

In Japan, it rains nearly every day in the month of June. This rainy season is called *tsuyu*, and it is a good idea to keep an umbrella handy. However, a couple walking home under a single umbrella is the symbol for love in Japan. Like having two names in a heart in North America, two names under a stylized triangle (supposed to represent an

umbrella) means that the two people named are in love. The reason for this is because the Japanese are traditionally shy of physical intimacy in public, and two people can share a more intimate closeness under an umbrella than would normally be allowed.

Page 125, Konnyaku

Konnyaku is a traditional Japanese jelly-like health food made from a kind of potato called Konnyaku potato, containing calcium hydroxide extracted from eggshells.

Page 130, Rain Gear

The Japanese word for rain gear is *kappa*. But *kappa* is also a water sprite. Since there are no words for water sprite that also mean rain gear in English, this translation lets Karasuma-kun's oddness speak for itself.

Page 133, Kampai!

Alternatively spelled *Kanpai*, this toast literally means empty glass, but for all intents and purposes, its direct translation would be the English "Cheers!"

Page 142, Bug

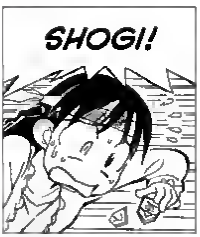
Another pun. Tenma says, "I thought it was love," but she uses *koi*, another Japanese word for love. As anyone who owns a fish pond knows, *koi* can also mean those huge goldfish-like carp. So Yakumo's reply is, "Koi? No, it's a cat."

Page 145, The Cat Returns

Both the Studio Ghibli film and original manga by Hiiragi Aoi, *The Cat Returns*, are based on an old Japanese fairy tale titled *Neko no Ongaeshi* (The Cat Returns the Favor), about a cat who magically pays back a human for saving its life.

Page 151, Banana Daifuku Cakes

Banana daifuku is a *mochi* (rice paste) cake filled with sweet bean paste and a small chunk of banana.

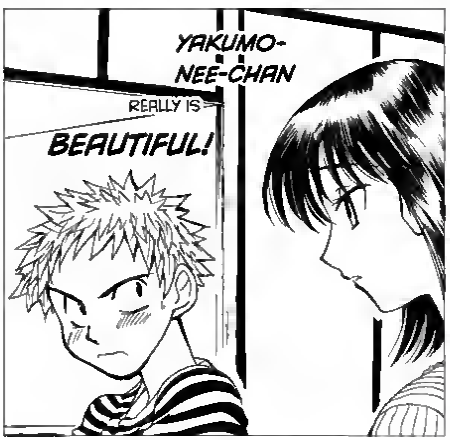


Page 158, Shogi

Often called Japanese chess, shogi is a game with twenty pieces per player set on a nine-by-nine board. The object of the game is, as in chess, to capture the opponent's king.

Page 160, Yakumo-nee-chan

It is common for small children to call young (or young-looking) strangers "big brother" or "big sister." Shûji is using this form of address for Yakumo because he'd like a closer relationship with her, but it also reinforces in him that she is older and pretty much out of his league.



■今鳥恭介(いまどりきょうすけ)■